



NARAYANA STUDENTS

EMERGE AS TOPPERS IN 5 STATES

JEE-MAIN 2026 SESSION 1

3

OVERALL
100 PERCENTILE
ACHIEVERS

35

SUBJECT-WISE
100 PERCENTILE
ACHIEVERS

98

STUDENTS
SCORING
250+ MARKS

100

Percentile

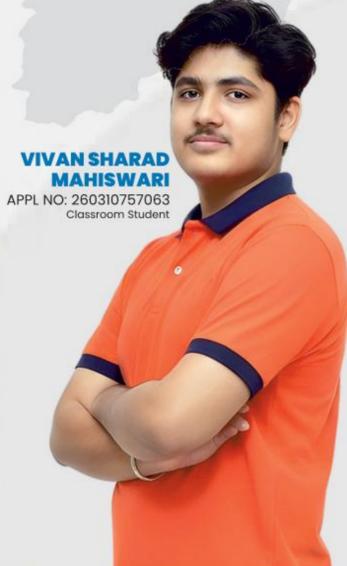


N. MAHITH
APPL NO: 260310088709
Classroom Student

ANDHRA PRADESH
STATE TOPPER

100

Percentile

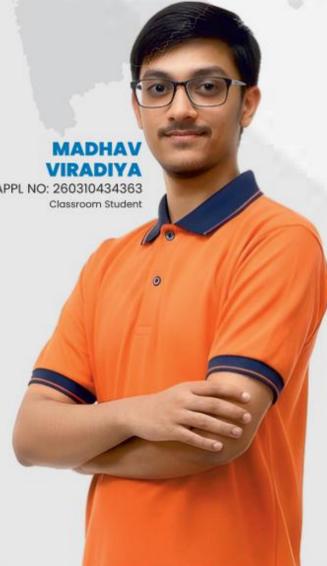


VIVIAN SHARAD MAHISWARI
APPL NO: 260310757063
Classroom Student

TELANGANA
STATE TOPPER

100

Percentile



MADHAV VIRADIYA
APPL NO: 260310434363
Classroom Student

MAHARASHTRA
STATE TOPPER

99.99

Percentile



A VISHNU SAI TEJA
APPL NO: 260310184412
Classroom Student

KARNATAKA
STATE TOPPER

99.82

Percentile



TANAY AJIT PRABHU
APPL NO: 260310214688
Classroom Student

GOA
STATE TOPPER

Subject-wise 100 Percentile Achievers

 VIVIAN SHARAD M APPL NO: 260310757063 Classroom Student	 B CHETHAN SREE SAI APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 NAINI BETHWIK RAO APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 A VISHNU SAI TEJA APPL NO: 260310184412 Classroom Student	 AKSHIT BOYAPATI APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 S AMIT PEDNEKAR APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 HARSHIT JINDAL APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 NAMAN GOYAL APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 EVIN JUBY ISAC APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 CHAITHRA Y APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 MADHAV VIRADIYA APPL NO: 260310434363 Classroom Student	 C HEMANTH REDDY APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 KUCHI SANDEEP APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 T SAI VINEL APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student
 ARCHIT ARORA APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 G PAVAN KUMAR APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 GOVIND PANDEY APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 HARSH BAJPAI APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 AGASTYA REMANI APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 D BHAVITESH REDDY APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 MANAS JINDAL APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 SAI RITHVIK REDDY V V APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 SANVI PATIDAR APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 ADULA SAI NIKITH APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 K SAI DIVYANSH APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 KUNSHIV ANEJA APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	 AARUSH GOEL APPL NO: 260310333333 Classroom Student	and many more...

ADMISSIONS ARE IN PROGRESS FOR ALL COURSES 2026-27
JEE (MAIN+ADV.) | NEET | FOUNDATION | BOARDS



Toll Free: 1800 102 3344 | www.narayanaagroup.com

#YourDreamsAreOurDreams



NARAYANA[®]
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

NARAYANA STUDENTS WHO SECURED 99.9 PERCENTILES & ABOVE

99.98 Percentile NIRVAAN TOTLANI APPL NO: 260310762491	99.98 Percentile K VAMSHI KRISHNA REDDY APPL NO: 260310824445	99.98 Percentile VENKAT TANMAY KUMAR APPL NO: 260310738671	99.98 Percentile VELDURTHI HARSHITH APPL NO: 260310280322	99.98 Percentile ADITYA PAWAN KUMAR APPL NO: 260310463323	99.98 Percentile NIRANJAN BABU APPL NO: 260310284382	99.98 Percentile AARAV GUPTA APPL NO: 260310820322	99.98 Percentile NALLADI SASEENDRA APPL NO: 260310820322	99.98 Percentile GOLLA SREE HARSHITH APPL NO: 26031028164	99.98 Percentile D SANMATHI VARDHINI APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile AMIN KALP DHIREN APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile K MD HAARIS ALI APPL NO: 26031028224
99.98 Percentile VENKATA SAI SHASHANK G APPL NO: 26031028164	99.98 Percentile DAKSH HEMNANI APPL NO: 260310820322	99.98 Percentile SANGA JAGRUTH APPL NO: 260310820322	99.98 Percentile ARNAV GUPTA APPL NO: 260310463323	99.98 Percentile SHAIK FAISAL AHMED APPL NO: 260310820322	99.98 Percentile KOTA YASHWIN APPL NO: 260310820322	99.98 Percentile BACHUPALLY ABHILITH RAO APPL NO: 260310820322	99.98 Percentile M RAM SAI CHARAN APPL NO: 260310820322	99.98 Percentile POTHUGANTI ANIRUOH APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile B CHARISH VARDHAN G APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile V SHREYAS REDDY APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile AKSHANSH GOYAL APPL NO: 260310820322
99.97 Percentile ALLU ROHITH APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile BEJUGAMA ANSHUL APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile RISHIT RAJ KOTHARI APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile MANHAR RAWAT APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile NAMAN MAHESH SARDA APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile M VEDA CHARAN REDDY APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile PARICHAY SINGHAL APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile Ishan Gupta APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile MAHIL MOHAN MANI APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile B R DARSHAN APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile NIPUN SHARMA APPL NO: 260310820322	99.97 Percentile T SHREYAS REDDY APPL NO: 260310820322
99.96 Percentile ARRABELI DEEPIKA RAO APPL NO: 260310820322	99.96 Percentile ADHRATH M PATIL APPL NO: 260310820322	99.96 Percentile BANKURU PRAVEEN APPL NO: 260310820322	99.96 Percentile SHRESTH SURAIYA APPL NO: 260310820322	99.96 Percentile BIBAASWAN DAS APPL NO: 260310820322	99.96 Percentile REDDI SAI SATHITH APPL NO: 260310820322	99.96 Percentile SAKET TAMRAKAR APPL NO: 260310820322	99.96 Percentile SANYAM SARTHAK APPL NO: 260310820322	99.96 Percentile NANGUNOORI AKSHAYA APPL NO: 260310820322	99.96 Percentile MALIK MD FAHEEM APPL NO: 260310820322	99.96 Percentile K KARTHIKEYAN APPL NO: 260310820322	99.96 Percentile MANI PARAMESHWARAN APPL NO: 260310820322

And many More...

Outstanding Performance in JEE Main 2026 Session 1

296 300 VIVAN SHARAD M APPL NO: 260310284382	295 300 AARUSH GOEL APPL NO: 260310820322 (NHRP)	291 300 MADHAV VIRADIYA APPL NO: 260310463323	291 300 T SAI VINEEL APPL NO: 260310820322	290 300 KUCHI SANDEEP APPL NO: 26031028352	285 300 N GARI MAHITH APPL NO: 260310820322	285 300 AV HEMANTH APPL NO: 26031028164	285 300 HARSH BA JPAI APPL NO: 260310820322	285 300 B CHETHAN SREE SAI APPL NO: 260310820322	285 300 D BHAVITESH REDDY APPL NO: 260310820322	282 300 A VISHNU SAI TEJA APPL NO: 260310820322
280 300 AGASTYA REMANI APPL NO: 260310284382	280 300 SAI RITHVIK REDDY V APPL NO: 260310820322	280 300 P SINGH RAJPUT APPL NO: 260310820322	276 300 ADULA SAI NIKITH APPL NO: 260310463323	275 300 SANVI PATIDAR APPL NO: 260310820322	275 300 THAMMINA GIRISH APPL NO: 26031075849	275 300 AKSHIT BOYAPATI APPL NO: 260310463323	272 300 ARCHIT ARORA APPL NO: 26031028352	271 300 GOVIND PANDEY APPL NO: 26031028164	270 300 MANAS JINDAL APPL NO: 26031028164	270 300 SANGA JAGRUTH APPL NO: 26031028268
270 300 K VAMSHI KRISHNA APPL NO: 260310284445	270 300 SHIVAM JYOTI APPL NO: 260310820322	270 300 SOHAM AMIT P APPL NO: 260310820322	270 300 PENTA SRISANTH APPL NO: 260310463323	270 300 KOTHA RUSHYANTH APPL NO: 260310463323	270 300 G PAVAN KUMAR APPL NO: 260310284382	270 300 NADIPALLI SAI SRIRAM APPL NO: 260310820322	268 300 NALLADI SASEENDRA APPL NO: 260310820322	267 300 AMIN KALP DHIREN APPL NO: 260310820322	266 300 V SAI SHASHANK APPL NO: 260310738671	266 300 VELDURTHI HARSHITH APPL NO: 260310280322
266 300 ADITYA PAWANT APPL NO: 260310284382	265 300 AKSHANSH GOYAL APPL NO: 260310463323	265 300 VENKAT TANMAY K APPL NO: 260310738671	265 300 NIRVAAN TOTLANI APPL NO: 260310762491	265 300 NIRANJAN BABU APPL NO: 260310284382	263 300 K SAI DIVYANSH APPL NO: 260310284381	263 300 K YASHWIN APPL NO: 260310820322	263 300 ROHIT SREENIVAS APPL NO: 260310463323	263 300 D S VARDHINI APPL NO: 260310820322	261 300 DAKSH HEMNANI APPL NO: 26031028164	261 300 G SREE HARSHITH APPL NO: 260310820322
261 300 ARNAV GUPTA APPL NO: 260310463323	260 300 NAINI RETHVIK RAO APPL NO: 260310820322	260 300 SHRESTH SURAIYA APPL NO: 260310820322	260 300 V SHREYAS REDDY APPL NO: 260310820322	260 300 B CHARISH VARDHAN APPL NO: 260310820322	260 300 B ABHILITH RAO APPL NO: 260310820322	259 300 ALLU ROHITH APPL NO: 260310738671	259 300 AARAV GUPTA APPL NO: 260310820322	259 300 ADITYA KUMAR APPL NO: 260310820322	259 300 U ASHUTOSH LAKHAMARA APPL NO: 260310738671	

Disclaimer: Any inadvertent error published in this advertisement could be brought to our notice

nPrep Narayana Digital Learning Programme

And many More...

100 Percentile Subject wise	35 Students	290 ABOVE 5 Students	280 ABOVE 14 Students	250 ABOVE 98 Students
--	-----------------------	---	--	--



As per the information received at the time of publication

Toll Free: 1800 102 3344

#YourDreamsAreOurDreams

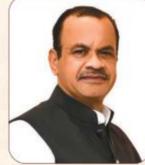
www.narayanagroup.com

Namaskaram, VANASTHALIPURAM

VANASTHALIPURAM
SHOWROOM
GRAND
OPENING

TODAY | 5:00 PM

Inauguration by



Sri. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Garu
Hon'ble Minister for Roads & Buildings, Cinematography Government of Telangana

Chief Guests



Sri. Devireddy Sudheer Reddy Garu
MLA- LB Nagar



Sri. Malreddy Ram Reddy Garu
Chairman - Telangana State Road Development Corporation (TSRDC)



Dr. Joy Alukkas
Chairman & MD Joyalukkas Group



Incredible Flat



40% OFF
ON MAKING CHARGES (V.A)
FOR ALL JEWELLERY

Offer valid till 8th March 2026

*T&C apply. Not applicable for Gold coins & bars

Grand opening in

KOKAPET

Tomorrow | 5:00 PM



Shop online @
joyalukkas.com

Joyalukkas
World's favourite jeweller

Bommidi Elite Towers, Door No: 5-5-181,182, Panama Bus Stop, Vanasthalipuram. Tel: 8977782068
INDIA • USA • UK • UAE • KSA • QATAR • BAHRAIN • KUWAIT • OMAN • SINGAPORE • MALAYSIA • AUSTRALIA

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PR CIRCLE, PEDDAPALLY
E-Procurement Tender Notice
NIT No.768 to 799/SE/Tenders/2025-26 Dt.18.02.2026
Tenders have been called for total number (32) Works which are sanctioned under DMFT, 15th Finance, District Collector Available Funds, CRF, MRR, STSDF, MPP ZPF Budget, and SDF Grants pertaining to Peddapally and Jayashankar Bhupatipally Districts with Total Est.Cost of Rs.6876.95 Lakhs. Tender Schedules can be had from e-procurement market from dt: 19.02.2026. Further details can be available from e-procurement market place www.tenders.telangana.gov.in.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
DIPR R.O.No.15576-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 19.02.2026 PR Circle, Peddapally

A.P. TOWNSHIP & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
Name of the work: APTIDCO - Construction of Physical Infrastructure such as Internal Roads, Storm Water Drains, Culverts, Water Supply, Sewerage Network etc., in the approved layouts of Palasa, Ichapuram ULBs of Srikantham District under PMAY-HFA (U) - Andhra Pradesh- Publication of E-Tender Notice for the work relates to Visakhapatnam Circle - Requested - Regarding.
E-Procurement Notice
Tender Notice No. NIT No.11/DCTO/APTIDCO/SKLM-INFRA/SP/2025-26, Dt.16.02.2026
Bid Document Downloading Start Date 20.02.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs
Bid Document Download Close Date 09.03.2026 @ 14:00 Hrs
Technical Bid opening Date 09.03.2026 @ 17:00 Hrs
Financial Bid Opening Date 11.03.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs
Name & Address of the Concerned Officer: O/o DEPUTY CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER, APTIDCO, VISAKHAPATNAM CIRCLE, 3rd FLOOR, VMDRA, SIRIPURAM, VISAKHAPATNAM-530003.
The details can be seen in website <http://tender.aaproject.com> in 'Therof Contact No.: +91 9849906412, +917799526245. Sd/- Managing Director, DIPR 4854PP/CL, Dt:19/02/2026 APTIDCO, Vijayawada

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scri.in/railways.gov.in
No: C/E-Auctions Catalogue/SC/2025-26, Date:16.02.2026
For and on behalf of the President, Union of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway invites e-Auction for Commercial earning and NFR contracts. Accordingly, SC division has processed an e-Auction for the following Categories, which are notified in the <https://www.ireps.gov.in> website.

SI. No. 1, Category: PARCELS, Catalogue No.: SC-PARCEL-0126, Auction Start Date & Time: 23-Feb-26 12:00, Corresponding station(s)/Train(s): 12776, 15294, 07020, 12734, 22737, 17039, Auction Details: Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment) in 12776, 15294, 07020, 12734, 22737, 17039
SI. No. 2, Category: PARCELS, Catalogue No.: SC-PARCEL-0226, Auction Start Date & Time: 24-Feb-26 12:00, Corresponding station(s)/Train(s): 12764, 12735, 20915, 17256, Auction Details: Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment) in 12764, 12735, 20915, 17256
SI. No. 3, Category: PARKING, Catalogue No.: SC-PARK-JMKT-FW, Auction Start Date & Time: 26-Feb-26 10:00, Corresponding station(s)/Train(s): JMKT, Auction Details: Parking Lot for Four Wheelers at location Beside Sangh office (New Lot) in Jammikunta Railway Station.
SI. No. 4, Category: MISC-STATIC, Catalogue No.: MSS-PREM-26-6, Auction Start Date & Time: 26-Feb-26 13:00, Corresponding station(s)/Train(s): BMT, HFZ, Auction Details: 1. Contract for Electrical Vehicle Charging station at Hafiz Peta Railway Station. 2. Separate Contracts for setting up and operation of premium store in various locations at Begumpet Railway Stations.
SI. No. 5, Category: PAY AND USE, Catalogue No.: PnU-SCD-HFZ-1, Auction Start Date & Time: 26-Feb-26 14:00, Corresponding station(s)/Train(s): ZN, HFZ, BDCR, Auction Details: Separate Pay and Use toilet contracts at Janagan, Hafizpet and Bhadrachalam Road Railway stations.
SI. No. 6, Category: PARKING, Catalogue No.: SC RADIOTAXI, Auction Start Date & Time: 27-Feb-26 12:00, Corresponding station(s)/Train(s): ZN, ALER, Auction Details: Parking Lot for Two Wheelers and Four Wheelers at location JANGAON and Aler Railway Stations
SI. No. 7, Category: CATERING, Catalogue No.: SC-CATG-03-2026, Auction Start Date & Time: 27-Feb-26 14:00, Corresponding station(s)/Train(s): CHZ, SC, BMT, SKZR, Auction Details: Separate Catering Stalls contracts at Charlapalli, Secunderabad, Begumpet and Sirpur Kaghnagar Railway stations.
SI. No. 8, Category: PARCELS, Catalogue No.: SC-PARCEL-0326A, Auction Start Date & Time: 28-Feb-26 12:00, Corresponding station(s)/Train(s): 20967, 12026, 17041, 12774/73, 12791/92, 17007/08, 22718/17, Auction Details: 1. Parcel Space in SLR Coach for 20967, 12026, 17041 Trains. 2. Parcel Space in Parcel Van for 12774/73, 12791/92, 17007/08, 22718/17 Trains
SI. No. 9, Category: CATERING, Catalogue No.: SC-CATG-04-2026, Auction Start Date & Time: 28-Feb-26 14:00, Corresponding station(s)/Train(s): CHZ, LP, Auction Details: Separate Contracts for Water Vending Machines for various locations at Charlapalli and Lingampalli Railway Stations.
SI. No. 10, Category: MISC-STATIC, Catalogue No.: MSS-GZ-ST-BS-26, Auction Start Date & Time: 02-Mar-26 13:00, Corresponding station(s)/Train(s): SJVR KZJ, JET, BMT, Auction Details: 1. Contract for installation, operation and maintenance of battery swapping stations at Sanjeevalah Park Railway Station. 2. The contract is for setting up a Fun Zone in the area available at the old Railway Quarters, Kazipet Railway Station. 3. Contract for setting up and operation of food trucks/Juice bar with chat stall at James street railway station. 4. Contract for setting up and operation of food trucks/Juice bar with chat stall at Begumpet railway station.
SI. No. 11, Category: ADVERTISING, Catalogue No.: ADVT-26-4, Auction Start Date & Time: 02-Mar-26 14:00, Corresponding station(s)/Train(s): KZJ, RDM, BPA, SKZR, JMKT, BMT, UDGR, LTRR, PRLI, CHZ, Auction Details: 1. The Contract is for Commercial Advertisements through Digital Boards in Circulating Area of Kazipet Railway Station. 2. The Contract is for Commercial Advertisements through Static Hoardings in Circulating Area of Ramagundam, Bellampalli, Sirpur kazhaznagar and Jammikunta Railway stations. 3. Contract for display of advertisement through Unipole/Bipole at Begumpet railway station at the mentioned location. 4. Contract for Advertisement through Digital Screens inside Udgr, Latur road and Parli Vajinath Railway Stations. 5. The Contract is for Commercial Advertisements through Digital Boards inside Begumpet Railway Station. 6. Contract for the display of Commercial Advertisements through Static Boards inside Charlapalli Railway Terminal
Interested parties and contractors are to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for detailed information about the E-Auction notice.
For enquiries/clarifications, please contact the office of the undersigned.
A2522 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Secunderabad

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scri.in/railways.gov.in
S/13/Auc.Prog/25-26 Dt: 17.02.2026
E-Auction programme for the month of MARCH & APRIL-2026.
MARCH e- Auction -2026
Date Divisions/Depots
02.03.26 Secunderabad, Tirupati
04.03.26 Hyderabad, Rayanapadu
05.03.26 Guntakal, Nanded
06.03.26 Guntur, Lallaguda
09.03.26 Vijayawada
10.03.26 Secunderabad, Tirupati
11.03.26 Hyderabad, Rayanapadu
12.03.26 Guntakal, Nanded
13.03.26 Guntur, Lallaguda
16.03.26 Vijayawada
17.03.26 Secunderabad, Tirupati
18.03.26 Hyderabad, Rayanapadu
20.03.26 Guntakal, Nanded
23.03.26 Guntur, Lallaguda
24.03.26 Vijayawada
25.03.26 Secunderabad, Tirupati
26.03.26 Hyderabad, Rayanapadu
30.03.26 Guntakal, Nanded
31.03.26 Guntur, Lallaguda, Vijayawada
APRIL e- Auction 2026
Date Divisions/Depots
01.04.26 Rayanapadu
02.04.26 Hyderabad
06.04.26 Secunderabad
07.04.26 Tirupati
08.04.26 Nanded
09.04.26 Vijayawada
10.04.26 Lallaguda
13.04.26 Guntur
14.04.26 Guntakal
15.04.26 Rayanapadu
16.04.26 Hyderabad
17.04.26 Secunderabad
20.04.26 Tirupati
21.04.26 Nanded
22.04.26 Vijayawada
23.04.26 Lallaguda
24.04.26 Guntur
27.04.26 Guntakal
28.04.26 Rayanapadu
29.04.26 Hyderabad
30.04.26 Secunderabad
Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Secunderabad
A2520
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scri.in/railways.gov.in

TNP&L TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Tender No. Nature of work Date of publishing Tender document in TNP&L/NIC website Due date
252623 004224 Procurement of AKD for Liquid Packaging Grade (ALU) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNP&L Unit-II. 20.02.2026 06.03.2026
252623 004263 Bleached Softwood Kraft Pulp (BSKP), Burst Index 6.0 for Unit-II 20.02.2026 02.03.2026
252623 004264 Bleached Softwood Kraft Pulp (BSKP) for Unit-II 20.02.2026 03.03.2026
252623 004266 Bleached Softwood Kraft Pulp (BSKP) FSC Mix for Unit-II 20.02.2026 02.03.2026
252623 004267 BCTMP Softwood 70 - High Bulk for Unit-II. 20.02.2026 03.03.2026
252623 004268 BCTMP Softwood 70 - High Yield Pulp for Unit-II. 27.02.2026 06.03.2026
252623 004269 BCTMP Softwood 70 - Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp Softwood 70 Brightness FSC Mix for Unit-II. 27.02.2026 10.03.2026
252623 004270 BCTMP Hardwood 70 - High Yield Pulp for Unit-II. 20.02.2026 05.03.2026
252623 004271 BCTMP Hardwood 80 - High Yield Pulp (Low Tensile) for Unit-II. 20.02.2026 05.03.2026
Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNP&L Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : www.tnpl.com / <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
DIPR/1224/Tender/2026 TNP&L - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 1)
3rd Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad-500 001
FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication
DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE RC/383/2024 INCOME TAX ACT, 1961. 03-02-2026
CANARA BANK
Versus
MR. M. SHIVA PRASAD M
To
(CD 1) MR. M. SHIVA PRASAD M S/O M. SAMBASHIVA RAO (LEGAL HEIR AND GUARANTOR), S/O. M. SAMBASHIVA RAO, AGED: MAJOR, R/O. FLAT NO. 801, SAI SAGAR HEIGHTS, PATTIGADDA PRAKASH NAGAR, NEAR OLD RR DISTRICT COURT, SECUNDERABAD Hyderabad, TELANGANA-
(CD 2) MS. SAKI MANASA D/O. SHIVA PRASAD, LEGAL HEIR OF SMT. M. USHA RANI, W/O. SHIVA PRASAD, AGED: MAJOR, FEMALE, R/O. FLAT NO. 801, SAI SAGAR HEIGHTS, PATTIGADDA PRAKASH NAGAR, NEAR OLD RR DISTRICT COURT, SECUNDERABAD
(CD 3) MR. RUDHRA TAPASVI S/O. M. SHIVA PRASAD, AGED: MAJOR, MALE, LEGAL HEIR OF SMT. USHA RANI, W/O. SHIVA PRASAD, AGED: MAJOR, FEMALE, R/O. FLAT NO. 801, SAI SAGAR HEIGHTS, PATTIGADDA PRAKASH NAGAR, NEAR OLD RR DISTRICT COURT, SECUNDERABAD
(CD 4) SRI G. SITARAMA CHANDRA GUPTA (GUARANTOR) S/O. G. MOHAN RAO, AGED: MAJOR, 3-2-114/B, 1ST FLOOR, GANESH NAGAR, RAMANTHAPUR, HYDERABAD-500013
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 1) in OA/347/2022 an amount of Rs. 33,35,839.87 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Thirty Five Thousands Eight Hundred Thirty Nine And Paise Eighty Seven Only) along with pendentelitte and future interest @ 10.20% Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 27-06-2022 till realization and costs of Rs. 66,005.00 (Rupees Sixty Six Thousands Five Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/Fully/Limited).
2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 17-03-2026 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 03-02-2026.
Recovery Officer,
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, HYDERABAD (DRT 1)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL
(DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES)
22-SHAM NATH MARG, DELHI-110 054
PUBLIC NOTICE
Applications are invited for engagement of the Public Health Specialist Gr.-III, for a period of one year or till regular officers join, whichever is earlier, at NCDC, Delhi and its branches on contract basis through Screening cum Selection Mode at NCDC, 22-Sham Nath Marg (Near Civil Lines Metro Station). Delhi-110 054, as under:-

Name of the post	No. of posts	Details of Vacancy	Place of Posting
Public Health Specialist Gr.-III	14	UR	8
		OBC	3
		SC	1
		EWS	1
		ST	1

The last date of submission of application is 06.03.2026. The application must reach this office on or before 06.03.2026, by speed post/ by hand on all working days from 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM at General Services Section, Room No. 202, NCDC, 22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi - 110054. Application received after 06.03.2026 will not be entertained.
After scrutiny of the application forms, only eligible candidates as per ToR will be informed through email to appear for interview with date and time.
The Educational Qualification, ToR and other conditions may be viewed on the NCDC Website: www.ncdc.mohfw.gov.in.
NOTE: The Competent authority reserves the right to modify or cancel selection process (in part or full), if need so arises without issuing any further reasons whatsoever.
(Prakash Doval)
Assistant Director (Admin.)
CBC 17129/11/0015/2526 Email: prakashdoval@ncdc.gov.in

TELANGANA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
"Tourism House", # 3-5-891, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-500029
e-Procurement Tender Notice No. 18/SE/SB/TGDC/2025-26, Dated:19.02.2026
Name of the work: Creation of Tourism Facilities at Madhira Lake (Phase-2), Madhira town, Khammam District.; Est. cost Rs. in Crores: 6.02; Bid Downloading Start Date: 21.02.2026. Bids are invited on e-procurement platform from eligible contractors. Further details can be seen @ e-procurement market place www.tender.telangana.gov.in.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer
TGDC Ltd, Hyderabad.
DIPR R.O.No.15656-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 19.02.2026

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Executive Engineer, Bahadurpura Circle -21, Rajender Nagar Zone 'e' Procurement Notice
NIT No.: 07/EE-21/RJNR/GHMC/2025-26, dt.18.02.26. Name of the Work: Dy.CM (17) no. of works in Bahadurpura Circle-21, Rajendernagar Zone, GHMC for the year 2026; Estt. Cost (Rs in Lakhs): 473.9; Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: Download Start Date: 19.02.2026 at 1.00 P.M.; Last Date Receipt of Bids: 26.02.2026 at 1.00 P.M.; Name & Address Officer, Cell No.: SRI T. Venkata Sheshaiah, EE-21, Circle. 21, Rajender Nagar Zone, Phoolbagh, Chandrayanagutta, Hyderabad. Ph.No.94920 67578. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bahadurpura Circle-21, Rajendernagar Zone, GHMC
DIPR R.O.No.15638-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 18.02.2026

PUNJAB STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
SCU 74-75, BANK SQUARE, SECTOR-17B CHANDIGARH
PBX: 0172-5197847, 5197846
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
PSWC invites online tenders through GeM Portal for creation of 3.50 LMT godown capacities at 09 locations in the State of Punjab for guaranteed lease of 10 years on Build, Own and Operate/Lease basis for storage requirements of FCI under two bid system 'Technical Bid' and 'Financial Bid'.
NIT (alongwith GeM Bid IDs) is available on Department's website i.e. <https://pswc.in>
PSWC reserves the right to scrap the tender at any stage without assigning any reason and PSWC will not be held liable for any costs and consequences incurred by the intending bidders.
Note: Any corrigendum(s)/Notification(s) to this Notice Inviting E-Tender shall be published Department's website & GeM Portal.
1004/12/2025-26/8458 Managing Director, PSWC

LIC HFL LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD
15/1, Hayes Centre, Hayes Road, Bangalore
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002, R/W PROVISION TO RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST ENFORCEMENT RULES 2002
The E-Auction sale notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) and guarantor(s) that, the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of L.I.C. Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstructions of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to following Borrowers/Mortgagors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, The Borrowers/Mortgagors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken SYMBOLIC POSSESSION of the following properties in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules. The mortgaged property will be sold on 'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is Basis', 'Whatever there is' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis'.

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower	Mr. NEELAKANTA SHIVA BUTTA	Mrs. BUTTA RENUKA
M/s. BUTTA CONVENTION SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED <td></td> <td>M/s. MERIDIAN EDUTECH SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED</td>		M/s. MERIDIAN EDUTECH SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
M/s. BUTTA INFRASTRUCTURE PRIVATE LIMITED <td></td> <td></td>		
LAN NO'S 411900013926 & 411900013927 <td></td> <td></td>		

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of Composite Immovable property together with entire super structures constructed thereon jointly owned by the Mortgagors known as Existing School Building "MERIDIAN SCHOOL" admeasuring 3833.28 Sq. yards situated at Phase-VI Sy no. 1009, KPHB Colony, Kukatpally, R, R District, Hyderabad-500072, Telangana Bounded on:-North By : 33 Feet Road, South By : 33 Feet Road, East By : 33 Feet Road, West By : 33 Feet Road.

Date of Demand Notice	18 NOVEMBER 2019
Reserve Price (Amount in Rs.)	₹. 65,00,00,000/- (SIXTY-FIVE CRORE ONLY)
EMD (10%) of Reserve Price	₹. 6,50,00,000/- (SIX CRORE FIFTY LAKHS ONLY)
Bank details (EMD to be transferred to)	Beneficiary Name: LIC Housing Finance Ltd Beneficiary Branch Name: HDFC BANK LTD Account Number: LHLFLBA411900013926 IFSC Code: HDFC0000009
Total Amount payable as on date	Rs. 782,07,02,628.84 (Rupees Seven hundred eighty-two crore seven lakh two thousand six hundred twenty-eight rupees and eighty-four paise Only)
Website of E-Auction	https://online.lichousing.com/eauction/ & https://www.auctionbazaar.com/
Date & Time of Inspection of Photocopies of property documents	20/03/2026 & 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Address where property documents can be inspected	BACK OFFICE, 1st FLOOR, JEEVAN MANGAL BUILDING, HAYES ROAD, BENGALURU -560025 KARNATAKA
Date and time for inspection of the Property	21/03/2026 & 10:30AM to 1:00PM
Contact person	Mr. A S R Phanindra, Associate Chief Manager Mob No. 8008177199
Contact details of E-Auction service provider	Mr. Uthappa K K, Mob No.: 7799510999 email id: - contact@auctionbazaar.com
E-AUCTION DATE	24/03/2026
LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF E-BID FORM	23/03/2026

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LIC HFL invites online mode to purchase the said properties on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' and 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS'.
THE TERMS & CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION SALE ARE AS FOLLOWS: -Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LIC HFL invites OFFERS through online mode only to purchase the said property as per the following Terms and Conditions as mentioned below:
1. E-Auction Sale is being held on 'As is where is Basis' and 'As is what is Basis', 'Whatever there is Basis' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis' and will be conducted "Online". The E-Auction will be conducted through LIC HFL approved E-auction service provider - <https://www.auctionbazaar.com/>
2. To the best of the knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, no other encumbrance exists on the mortgaged property, except as disclosed in the publications. However, the interested Bidders to conduct their own independent due diligence verifications regarding the Location and Identity of the property, Inspection of Public records in the Sub Registrars' Offices/Civil Courts, to find any encumbrances, statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, Income Tax, Excise Duty, Labour Dues, electricity, and maintenance dues, etc., of the Secured Asset. The Successful bidders shall have to bear all outgoing i.e., municipal taxes, maintenance/society charges, electricity charges, water charges, stamp duty, registration charges, (if applicable), if any and all other incidentals charges, cost including all outgoing relating to the respective properties over and above the Reserve Price. LIC HFL will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, liabilities, etc., of whatsoever nature pending upon the properties as mentioned above.
3. The intending bidders should register their names at portal "website of E-auction service provider" as mentioned in the auction sale notice (as published in newspaper advertisement).
4. The E-auction Sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act/Rules 2002 and the terms and conditions mentioned hereunder/ website also subject to conditions in the offer/bid documents to be submitted by the intending/participating bidders.
5. Every bidder is required to have his/her own email address in order to participate in the online E-auction. Once Intending Bidder formally registers as a qualified tenderer before Authorized Officer of LIC HFL, will have to express his/her interest to participate through the E-auction bidding platform, by submitting documents. It shall be the tenderer's/online bidder's sole responsibility to procure his/her login ID and password from the E-auction service provider.
6. The aforesaid properties shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned above.
7. If the successful bidder defaults in effecting payments or fails to adhere to the terms and condition of E-Auction in any manner the amount already deposited will be forfeited and he/she shall not have any claim as such for forfeited amount.
8. The offer/s along with the aforesaid Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) can be submitted "online" through the portal e.g., "www.auctionbazaar.com" along with the EMD and scanned copy of KYC documents including PAN Card & (Aadhar Card) address proof, to the service provider, mentioned above on or before the Bid Submission due date & time as per other details of Auction above. Authorised Officer is not bound to accept highest offer made by the bidder if not acceptable to the secured creditor.
9. Every Bidder shall deposit EMD before participating in E-Auction. The said Deposit/s shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidder/s, otherwise refunded. The said earnest money deposit/s will not carry any interest.
10. Initial Bidding increment is Rs.25,00,000/-. However, the Authorised Officer will state bidding increment amount percentage for each property if, decided otherwise.
11. The successful bidder/s shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the EMD paid already, within 24 hours of bid acceptance by the Authorized officer/next working day before close of cash hours, in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited. The balance 75% of the sale price is payable within 15 days from the date of confirmation of the sale unless decided otherwise by Authorised Officer in writing, the maximum period allowed is 90 days, beyond which time-period cannot be extended. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited. The Authorized Officer shall not be required to give any further notice of forfeiture to the successful bidder.
12. The successful bidder should bear the charges/fees payable on sale certificate, such as registration fees, stamp duty, taxes, or any other duties payable for getting the secured asset transferred in his/her name.
13. The Sale Certificate will be issued only in the name of the successful bidder and only after receipt of the entire sale price.
14. The notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, Mortgagors and Guarantors that they can bring the intending buyer/purchaser for purchasing the properties mentioned above, as per the terms and Conditions of the E-Auction Sale.
15. Inspection of the photocopies of documents and Property Inspection of the above said properties can be done on the dates stated in the advertisement. Interested bidders shall contact the designated official as per the other details of E-Auction mentioned above. All conveyance and other expenses related to inspection of the property/document copies shall be borne by the interested bidders.
16. The LIC Housing Finance Limited reserves the right to CANCEL / ACCEPT / REJECT / ALTER / MODIFY / POSTPONE the AUCTION without giving any reason whatsoever or prior Notice.
17. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor, viz., LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS
ADDENDUM TO PUBLIC NOTICE
(UNDER SECTION 3G (3) & (4) OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY ACT 1956)
G/RRR/400/2022 Dt: 20.02.2026.
WHEREAS, the Central Government declared that the land specified in the following schedule Annexed to the said notification in the villages of Medak District in the state of TELANGANA, for the public purpose to construct (widening/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of Greenfield Expressway in the stretch of land from Km. 25.304 to Km. 53.095 of Development of Greenfield Regional Expressway on Northern side of Hyderabad in the villages namely: i) Chinna Chinthakunta, ii) Moosapet, iii) Reddipally of Narsapur Mandal and i) Lingoiguda, ii) Pambanda, iii) Pothulaboguda, iv) Konthanpally, v) Rathnapur, vi) Kothapet of Shivampet Mandals in the district of Medak in the state of TELANGANA has been acquired in excise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 3D of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) and published in the Government of India Gazette vide S.O. 499 (E) Extraordinary Part-II section 3-Sub-Section(II), dt. 03.02.2026.
In pursuance of sub-section 2 of section 3D of the Act, the Central Government declares that the lands specified in the said schedule annexed here to shall vest absolutely in the Central Government free from all encumbrances from the date of publication of 3D (1) Notification in official Gazette of India.
All the persons interested [owner of the lands and other interested person(s)] in the lands specified in the Schedule given below are hereby called upon to submit their claims in the said land (their share, area of land, any assets attached there to e.g. structures/trees etc.) and state the nature of the respective interest in such lands along with relevant records. The said land owners or persons interested there in shall also furnish the particulars of their bank accounts to which they would like their compensation amount to be credited. The claims may be submitted in the following indicative format:

Name of the Village / Town	Name of the Land Owners/ interested persons	Field Survey No.	Area of land in his share	Any structures/ trees/tube-well attached to the land	Name of the Bank & Branch in which he/she holds the account	Particulars of the Bank Account No. -----, IFSC Code of the Bank Branch
----------------------------	---	------------------	---------------------------	--	---	---

Sl. No	Name of the District	Name of the Mandal	Name of the village	Place of Enquiry	Date and Time
1	Medak	Narsapur	1. Chinna Chinthakunta	Raithuvedika, Narsapur	24.02.2026, 10:00AM to 01:00PM.
2			2. Moosapet		
3			3. Reddipally		
4			1. Lingoiguda		
5			2. Pambanda		
6			3. Pothulaboguda		
7	Shivampet		4. Konthanpally	25.02.2026, 10:00 AM to 01:00 PM	
8			5. Rathnapur		
9			6. Kothapet		

SCHEDULE
Brief Description of the land to be acquired, with or without structures, falling within the Greenfield Regional Expressway on the Northern side of Hyderabad in the stretch of land from Km. 25.304 to Km. 53.095 (Narsapur Division) in the villages namely: i) Chinna Chinthakunta, ii) Moosapet, iii) Reddipally of Narsapur Mandal and i) Lingoiguda, ii) Pambanda, iii) Pothulaboguda, iv) Konthanpally, v) Rathnapur, vi) Kothapet of Shivampet Mandals in the district of Medak in the state of TELANGANA.

Sd/-
Revenue Divisional Office & Competent Authority,
Land Acquisition for RRR, Narsapur Division,
Medak District.
District: Medak
<https://egazette.gov.in>
Publication Date: 04.02.2026.



RISING TENSIONS
Iran and U.S. raise military posture
WORLD » PAGE 14

UN REPORT
Israel, Hamas committed atrocities in Gaza
WORLD » PAGE 14

FREEBIES DEBATE
SC flags 'appeasement' in poll-time largesse
NEWS » PAGE 10

UNDER SCRUTINY
From Washington to Delhi, shadow of Epstein
Political access and governance questions
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

RANJI TROPHY
Karnataka to meet J&K in the final
SPORT » PAGE 16

NEARBY
Kavitha to launch party in May
HYDERABAD
Telangana Jagruti president K. Kavitha, on Thursday, announced that her proposed political party would be formally launched in the first week of May, and she would prefer to contest from Siddipet, which is now held by her cousin T. Harish Rao. » Page 6

Bus overturns in Gadwal, 20 hurt
HYDERABAD
An APSRTC bus travelling from Hyderabad to Anantapur overturned in the early hours of Thursday at Itikyalapadu in Jogulamba Gadwal district, leaving 20 passengers injured. No casualties were reported. » Page 3

METROPLUS » PAGE 5

SIR in 22 States and U.T.s expected from April: EC

Poll body directs Chief Electoral Officers in States, U.T.s to complete preparatory work for special intensive revision; EC in talks with Census authorities on using resources in a staggered manner

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has informed State poll authorities that the special intensive revision (SIR) of voter lists in the 22 States and Union Territories, where it has not yet been conducted, is expected to begin in April.

The 22 remaining States and U.T.s are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, Telangana, and Uttarakhand.



People wait during hearings under the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Nadia, West Bengal. PTI

In a letter to the Chief Electoral Officers of these States and U.T.s, the EC asked them to complete all preparatory work related to the SIR at the earliest, as the exercise "is expected to start from April 2026". This preparatory work includes mapping the existing voters with the electoral roll of 2002-2004, when the last SIR was conducted, and training booth-level officers (BLOs) to carry out the exercise.

Census and SIR
While announcing the schedule, the EC will have to factor in the Census exercise, which is also sche-

duled to begin in April. The first phase of the Population Census 2027, the house listing operation, is scheduled to begin on April 1, with the deployment of 30 lakh enumerators, most of whom are teachers from government schools. However, the BLOs who carry out the door-to-door enumeration for the SIR are also largely government school teachers.

Sources had earlier indicated that the poll body had held meetings with the Registrar General of India as well as the Census Commissioner over how to use the common pool of administrative resources in a staggered manner for both the SIR and the Census.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10



Bill Gates pulls out of AI Summit

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Under a cloud over his relationship with American sex-offender and investor Jeffrey Epstein, Microsoft founder and Gates Foundation co-chair Bill Gates pulled out of the last minute from giving an address at the AI Impact Summit on Thursday.

He had been scheduled to deliver a keynote address at the plenary session and was billed as one of the "global visionaries" at the event.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 11

India sees future, not fear, in AI, says Modi

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India did not fear artificial intelligence (AI) but saw its future in the technology.

"I declare this with utmost responsibility and immense pride," he said. "We harbour no fear. India envisions its destiny in artificial intelligence, a future that is clearly and profoundly visible for our great nation." Mr. Modi was speaking at the plenary session of the AI Impact Summit.

"India is constructing a resilient ecosystem spanning from semiconductors and chip making to quantum computing," he said, hailing "clear policies" around AI and electronics manufacturing. "This comprehensive effort includes establishing secure data centres, a robust IT backbone, and a dynamic start-up ecosystem."

"The fundamental chal-



PM Modi with Switzerland's President Guy Parmelin. PTI

lenge before us is how to transition AI from a purely machine-centric approach to one that is truly human-centric, ensuring it is both sensitive and optimal," he said. "It is essential that AI must be democratised. We must transform this into a powerful instrument for inclusion and empowerment, particularly benefiting the Global South ... just as GPS shows us the way, but it is we who decide where to go, so too the ultimate decision of in which direction we must proceed rests entirely with us."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Ex-Duke Andrew held over ties with Epstein

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Britain's former Duke of York, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor (formerly, 'Prince Andrew'), was arrested and taken into custody early on Thursday morning, in a case related to Jeffrey Epstein, the deceased American child sex-offender and financier.

The extraordinary arrest of a member of the Royal family, which has not occurred in centuries, underlines the gravity and reach of the unfolding Epstein scandal, which has shaken both the family and the Keir Starmer government.

Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor, the younger brother of Britain's King Charles, who turned 66 on Thursday, was arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office - in connection with



Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor

passing on confidential official documents to Epstein, when he served as an unpaid trade envoy for the U.K. between 2001 and 2011.

The revelations have emerged from the release of files running into millions of pages related to Epstein by the U.S. Department of Justice.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

AICC reviews urban local body polls success in Telangana, flags caution on MIM factor

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) leadership's comprehensive review on Telangana saw an interesting discussion on the role of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimen (MIM), with senior leaders cautioning the Telangana unit against overtly displaying political closeness with the party.

The Congress leadership is said to have expressed concern that visible proximity to the MIM could strengthen the Bharatiya Janata Party in urban areas, especially ahead of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections.

Leaders reportedly advised that while tactical, local-level understanding with the MIM could be con-



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and MP Rahul Gandhi during a meeting with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Ministers and Congress leaders in New Delhi on Thursday. Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal is also seen. ANI

sidered where electorally beneficial, it should not be allowed to reach a level where the BJP gains politically from it. At the same time, sources said the leadership felt it was too early for any formal discussion or decision on alliances.

The high-level meeting was chaired by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge

and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. It was attended by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, his Cabinet colleagues, and TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud.

The meeting also discussed key political issues, with a focus on charting the road ahead after the party's strong perfor-

mance in the recent municipal elections. The issue of Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy, who is seeking the Ministerial berth given the earlier promise, also came up for discussion. The leadership also flagged the twin challenges of the BJP and regional politics of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi, stressing the need for a combined approach in urban constituencies though it felt that the BRS was moving closer to the BJP.

Rahul praises Revanth
At the meeting, Mr. Rahul Gandhi is learnt to have praised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for effectively containing the BJP in the municipal elections, despite the saffron party having a significant presence in Telangana in terms of 8 MPs and 8 MLAs. A detailed PowerPoint

presentation was also made on where the party strengthened from earlier positions and how the BJP was reduced to poor show due to the government's policies. Posting on X after the meeting, Mr. Kharge said: "Our resolve for social welfare, economic empowerment, and justice for all remains firm and is reflected in our guarantees. We will continue striving to realise the aspirations of every citizen and build a truly inclusive Telangana." A few Ministers also shared their views with the party high command. Later, speaking to the media, TPCC president Mahesh Goud said organisational issues came up for discussion and nominated posts would be filled soon.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 6

TG's revenue targets may fall short in current fiscal

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The State government appears to be falling well short of the anticipated revenue collections with the financial year 2025-26 fast coming to a close.

The State registered revenue receipts of ₹2.07 lakh crore till January end, 72.87% of the ₹2.84 lakh crore projected in the budget estimates, with just two months remaining for the conclusion of the fiscal. Tax revenue by January-end was in line with the overall receipts at ₹1.26 lakh crore, 72.04% of the ₹1.75 lakh crore of the budget estimates. Non-tax revenue continued to be sluggish at ₹7,864 crore.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 6

Joined Manipur govt. in good faith, not for personal ambition: Nemcha Kipgen

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Days after being sworn in virtually as Manipur's first woman Deputy Chief Minister, Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki-Zo legislator from Kangpokpi, told *The Hindu* that she joined the government in good faith "with a sense of long-term responsibility, not personal ambition."

Prolonged protests erupted in Churachandpur district, another Kuki-Zo area, after Ms. Kipgen took the oath on February 4 from Manipur Bhavan in Delhi.

Kuki-Zo civil society groups had passed a resolution against legislators from the community joining the elected government. Ms Kipgen, from the Bharatiya Janata Party, is among the 10 Kuki-Zo legislators in the 60-member Assembly in Manipur.

"I understand that there has been a misunderstanding and concern regarding my decision to take charge as Deputy Chief Minister. The protests reflect pain, fear, and political anxieties born out of prolonged suffering, and I respect those emotions. Sometimes lea-



Nemcha Kipgen

dership requires stepping into difficult spaces rather than remaining outside them," she said. Ms. Kipgen is yet to be allotted a portfolio and has yet to travel to Imphal to assume office. "Physical location does not diminish constitutional duty. I will function through constant coordination with officials, security agencies, and colleagues in government," she said, defending her decision to operate from Kangpokpi. Ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities erupted in the State on May 3, 2023, where more than 150 people have been killed and around 60,000 displaced.

INTERVIEW ON
» PAGE 11

GHMC trifurcation hits building permissions

Swathi Vadlamudi
HYDERABAD

Sanction of building permission has been severely hit in the two newly carved municipal corporations, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri, post the trifurcation of the expanded GHMC purview.

The municipal limits of GHMC had been expanded to the core urban region (CURE) boundaries, enclosed by Outer Ring Road towards the end of 2025. In February, the government issued orders dividing the expanded corporation into three - GHMC, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri. A large number of applications for building permissions divided among

the three corporations depending on the location, are now pending approval, despite passing through the rigmarole of submission. P. Narsimha Rao (name changed) from Uppal area applied for building permission way back in November, 2025, before the GHMC expansion was even mooted. The permission got delayed at LB Nagar zonal office itself, where the file was pending up to December 20. Post-trifurcation, the file has been sent to the newly formed Uppal Zone into which the location falls. "People resorting to illegal structures are given a free pass, but genuine owners like me are made

to suffer," fumes Mr. Rao, who did not consent to reveal his name owing to fear of retribution.

Similar complaint was shared by another owner from Quthbullahpur which was part of Kukatpally Zone earlier. Now, Quthbullahpur is a separate zone, and the application for building permission has not been processed till now. GHMC had launched the Build Now app early last year, touting it as an AI-powered platform designed to revolutionise the processing of building and layout permissions, which was way better than the earlier software TG-bPASS. Under the system, the building plan would be ap-

proved in less than five minutes, the officials said.

Drastic reduction in submission time was promised from weeks to hours and savings in overall processing time by five to seven days. None of these promises have been fulfilled, with several plot owners roaming around the offices despite the new system

Sources informed that many applications have been pending since December, as the officials were busy in the trifurcation process and it will take more time for the corporations to settle down.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 3

INBRIEF



HMWSSB staff to inspect field issues four days a week

To address issues affecting drinking water supply and sewerage lines, officials and staff of Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) will visit all localities four days a week from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. They would be available at offices from 2 p.m. The 'Jalamandali, Basthi Bata' programme would be launched on Friday and issues to be addressed include leakages, low-pressure of drinking water supply, water pipelines maintenance, desilting, water wastage, manholes, fixing metres to water taps, quality of drinking water and others. Besides, people would be made aware about rainwater harvesting pits and injection borewells.

Midhani's SC/ ST vendor development scheme

The various policy initiatives and institutional support available to SC/ST entrepreneurs through the National SC-ST Hub (NSSH), Hyderabad, under the Ministry of MSME was highlighted at the one-day special vendor development programme held in association with the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (Midhani), a defence public sector undertaking, here on Thursday. NSSHO TG/AP head S. Suresh, Midhani AGM Subhadip Ghosh, CVO Spurthi Reddy, Director P. Babu, and others participated, said a press release.

Minister bats for AI innovation, while stressing on safeguards

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD



D. Sridhar Babu

IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu on Thursday showcased Telangana's plan to harness Artificial Intelligence and how Hyderabad on the back of its technology-led growth path is poised to emerge as an economic powerhouse like China's Shenzhen. The Minister, who is in Delhi in connection with the AI Impact Summit, told representatives of global strategic advisory firms such as Digital Governance Advisory and Albright Stonebridge Group, that the State government viewed

safety in AI not as an obstacle to innovation. AI today is at a critical juncture and is in need of regulatory safeguards to build public trust. Telangana government is taking AI technology to the grassroots level with sustainability as a core growth strategy. It has also

Traffic sees mild relief on Sikh Village-Paradise stretch

The road surface has improved and is no longer riddled with gravel and rocks, however, there has been no significant change in commute time, says a road user

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Traffic movement has seen some improvement providing mild relief for commuters after the stretch from Sikh Village towards Paradise Circle was reopened following months of disruption due to elevated corridor works towards Suchitra.

The carriageway has been cleaned up and levelled, with gravel and loose stones cleared, making it safer and easier for motorists to manoeuvre. However, despite the improved surface conditions, overall commute time has largely remained unchanged.

During the morning rush between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., motorists continue to take close to 30 minutes to cross the busy corridor, nearly double the usual time. Evening peak hours between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. also witness heavy congestion.

Commuters travelling towards Paradise and cen-



Traffic movement improved in Secunderabad after the Sikh Village to Paradise Circle stretch was rebuilt following months of disruption due to elevated corridor works towards Suchitra. NAGARA GOPAL

tral Hyderabad from Bowenpally are currently being advised to take a left turn at Tivoli Junction and proceed towards Paradise after making a U turn at the Patny flyover, in view of ongoing diversions linked to the elevated corridor construction.

P. Ankit, one of the commuters from Balamrai, said that when the project began, authorities had indicated it would take nine months, but are now stating that it may extend to 12 months. He said the

stretch remains highly congested and frequently used. "While the road surface has improved and is no longer riddled with gravel and rocks that earlier damaged vehicles, there has been no significant change in traffic flow," he said.

He added that his daily commute from his residence in Sainikpuri to Punjagutta has become increasingly difficult. According to him, civil works near the Paradise Metro Station are a key rea-

son for the persistent delays. He also pointed out the lack of adequate bus services and metro connectivity to Sainikpuri, which forces many residents to rely on private vehicles.

An officer from the Malkajgiri traffic police said the elevated corridor is about 5.1 kilometres long, beginning at Balamrai junction near Paradise Circle and extending up to Dairy Farm at Suchitra junction.

The officer said efforts are under way to assess the volume of vehicles passing through the corridor, and there are requests to install Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to monitor traffic more effectively.

The Hyderabad Traffic Police had earlier announced road closures and diversions to facilitate construction of the elevated corridor between Paradise Junction and Dairy Farm Road on National Highway 44. The restrictions came into effect on October 30, 2025.

Indonesia moots Hyd-Jakarta Tech Skills Development Corridor

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Indonesia has proposed setting up a Hyderabad-Jakarta Technology Skills Development Corridor to facilitate the exchange of technological talent and the State's expertise in the startup ecosystem.

The proposal was discussed during a meeting between IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu and a high-level Indonesian delegation led by Vice-Minister for Communications and Digital Affairs Nezar Patria on the sidelines

of India AI Impact Summit 2026 in Delhi on Thursday.

Mr. Patria requested Telangana to take the lead and sought technical support for implementing Indonesia's National Digital Roadmap. The delegation also called upon Telangana to share State's expertise in strengthening emerging enterprises and the startup ecosystem. Mr. Sridhar Babu said TG would support Indonesia's digital transformation efforts and partner in areas such as technology talent alignment, ethical Artificial Intelligence and policy frameworks.

Partnership to support startups

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Startup incubator T-Hub and the Hauts-de-France region have entered into a partnership with an eye on strengthening startup-led economic cooperation between India and France.

The tie-up provides to facilitate reciprocal market entry through structured immersion programmes and market access and registration support in new geographies, while enabling cross-border investment. Hauts-de-France region is the region between the North of Paris and Calais, Dunkirk and Belgium.

400-km 'Dhamma Padayatra' reaches city

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Some 70 Buddhist monks and nuns from Thailand and India, clad in ochre robes, reached Hyderabad as part of the 400-kilometre Buddha Dhamma Padayatra, which began in Kalaburgi, aimed at rekindling awareness of the Buddha's teachings in the land of its origin. The monks were received by Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu and Minister for Labour Gad-dam Vivek Venkatswamy. Senior IAS and IPS officers, public representatives and devotees gathered to receive the monks.

The yatra, which began on February 2 at Siddhartha Buddha Vihara in Kalaburgi, Karnataka, will culminate on March 1 at Buddhavanam in Nagarjunasagar and closing ceremony is on March 2.

Led by Sangha project director from Thailand, Pra Songshak Kovido, the yatra with 60 Thai bhikkhus and 10 Indian Buddhists has been organised by president of the Gagan Malik Foundation Gagan Malik.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
9th Floor, Sigappi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmi Pathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in | +91 44 2855 6100 | spltender@elcot.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. ELCOT-ST-HO12-2026-0006

ELCOT invites tender for "Supply of Digital Mobile Radio equipment(s) with complete accessories with 3 years onsite warranty". For complete details, please visit www.elcot.tn.gov.in or www.tntenders.gov.in. Pre-bid meeting: 26.02.2026, 11 AM. Last date for submission of e-bids: 23.03.2026, 3 PM. For queries: spltender@elcot.in

DIPR/1264/Tender/2026 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Canara Bank CHENNAI BRANCH
KURNOOL, A.P. 518003
CELL NO. 94409 05481 & 99499 15723

AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Chennamma Circle Branch of the Canara Bank**, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **24-03-2026**, for recovery of **Rs.4,82,53,675.72/- (As on 17-02-2026) + Int & other charges** due to the **Chennamma Circle Branch of Canara Bank from 1) M/s Prithvi Industries (Borrower)**, Prop Smt Chirra Udaya, Sy.No. 240/2, Chetiamallapuram, Old Bangalore City, Kallur, Kurmool-518218. **2) Smt. Chirra Udaya (Proprietor)**, W/o Chirra Jayaram Reddy, H.No.182/B, Dhanalakshmi Society, Road No.10, Mahindra Hills, Secunderabad, Hyderabad-500026. **3) Smt. Ch Radhika Reddy (Guarantor)**, W/o Ch V Reddy, 202, Jyoti Abode, Kapadia Lane, Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500003.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 24-03-2026 at 10.30 am

EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (baanknet) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before 23-03-2026 at 4.00 pm

Details & full description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any:
All the part and parcel of flat within G+30 Floor complex bearing Flat No: 904 (3 BHK) on 9th Floor (including Ground Floor), Tower - 6LH(Six LH), Lanco Hills of an Extent of 2489 Sq Feet and together with parking space each admeasuring 134.55 Sq Ft for 3 Cars in the basement along with undivided share of Land of 38.79 Sq.Yards or 349.10 Sq.Ft out of 13.56 Acres of Land in Sy.No.201 of Manikonda Jagir Village, Rajendra Nagar Mandal (Now Gandipet Mandal), Ranga Reddy Dist; Telangana State, Immovable property stands in the name of Smt. Chirra Udaya W/o Ch. Jayaram Reddy. **Boundaries of Flat No.904:** North: Open to Sky, South: Open to Sky, East: Corridor & Opposite Flat No: 901, West: Open to Sky. **Boundaries of Land:** North: Private Land, South: Land of APIC and others Land, East: Land of APIC, West: Road.

Reserve Price: Rs. 1,98,00,000/- EMD Amount: Rs. 19,80,000/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website www.canarabank.com or may contact Manager, **Chennamma Circle Branch of Canara Bank**, Phone No. **94409 05481** during office hours on any working day.

For E-Auction Process contact Service Provider: M/s PSB Alliance (baanknet), web portal: <https://baanknet.com>, Helpdesk No. 8291220220, E-mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com.
Date: 17-02-2026, Place: Kurnool Sd/- Authorized Officer, CANARA BANK

e-mail ID - sepwd_rgda@yahoo.com; Phone/Fax No - 06856-223049

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RAYAGADA (R&B) CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. C.C.E (R&B) RGA-15 / 2025-26 (Online) Dt.16.02.2026
No.265 Date: 16.02.2026
INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover mode to be received in online mode only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below:

2. Nature of Work	Building Works
3. No. of Works	02 (Two) Nos. of work
4. Estimated Cost (Approximately)	Rs.109.68 Lakh, and Rs.419.80 lakhs.
5. Bid Cost (Online)	Rs.10,000/-
6. EMD / Bid Security Amount (Online)	One Percentage of the Estimated Cost.
7. Class of Contractor	B and A Class as per Financial Eligibility.
8. Availability of Bid Documents in the website	11.00 Hours of Dt.25.02.2026 to 17.00 Hours of Dt.11.03.2026
9. Date of Opening of Bid	11.00 Hrs of Dt. 12.03.2026
10. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tenders.odisha.gov.in . Any Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.	

Chief Construction Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada.
34001/89/2526 OIPR-34001/34154/1/25-26/0022

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH
6th Floor Jawahar Bhawan, Lucknow

No. ME-3/2026/363 Lucknow : Dated 18/02/2026

TIME SCHEDULE FOR "STRAY VACANCY ROUND" OF UP NEET PG COUNSELING 2025 (M.D./M.S./DIPLOMA & D.N.B.)

In accordance with the schedule issued by the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC), New Delhi for the NEET PG course, time schedule for the Stray Vacancy Round of online counseling for admission to state quota seats in postgraduate courses (M.D./M.S./DIPLOMA & D.N.B.) in government/private medical colleges/institutions/ medical universities is as follows :-

Sr.	Description	Dates	Total days
1-	Date of online registration	From 20.02.2026 (11:00 AM) To 23.02.2026 (09:00 AM)	03 Days
2-	Date of depositing registration and security money	From 20.02.2026 (11:00 AM) To 23.02.2026 (10:00 AM)	03 Days
3-	Date of Merit List Declaration	On 23.02.2026	01 Day
4-	Date of On-line Choice filling	From 23.02.2026 (12:00 AM) To 24.02.2026 (03:00 AM)	02 Days
5-	Date of Allotment Result Declaration	On 25.02.2026	01 Day
6-	Date for downloading the allotment letters & Admission	From 25.02.2026 to 28.02.2026	04 Days

As per the instructions contained in the government order/brochure of UP NEET PG 2025, candidates should assess their eligibility themselves. Only those candidates will be eligible for choice filling who have completed the online registration process and who have deposited the required security amount. The UP NEET PG 2025 information booklet (brochure) and important instructions are available on the websites www.upneet.in and www.dgme.up.gov.in. Keep visiting websites regularly for updated information.

Helpline Numbers: 8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700

Director General
Medical Education & Training, UP

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mahalakshimpuram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross,
West of Chord Road, BWCC, Bengaluru.

No: EE/MLP/TENDE/PROC/13/2025-26 Date: 19-02-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshimpuram Division, BWCC, Bengaluru for the works detailed below from the registered Contractors of BWCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / BBMP or any State Government Organizations. (Standard Tender Document - KW-1, KW-2 KW-3 & KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements to Roads and Drains at 1st Cross, 3rd Cross in 4th Block, 1st Cross, 2nd Cross, 3rd Cross, 4th Cross & 5th Cross Roads in Narasimha Layout and 26th Main Road Srinivasanagara in Ward No. 47, Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar Ward. Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 205.94, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 3.09
2	Improvements to Roads and Drains at Shankaranagara, Vijayanandanagara and Nanjundeshwaranagara in Ward No. 46, Rajeevanagara. Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 205.94, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 3.09

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 24-02-2026 after 16.30 Hours. 2) Last Date for Receipt of Queries: 26-02-2026 upto 15.00 Hours. 3) Date of Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 26-02-2026 at 15.30 Hours. 4) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is 05-03-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 5) Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is 06-03-2026 after 16.30 Hours through KPP Portal. Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mahalakshimpuram Division, BWCC.

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (MP&CS),
Old Madras Road, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560036.

No: BECC/PR/EE(MP&CS)/10/2025-26 Date: 19-02-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (MP&CS), BECC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP, GBA or BECC or equivalent registration with KPWD / CPWD / BWSSB / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Services detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Providing Man Power Services of Solid Waste Inspectors to Mahadevapura Zone-1, Bengaluru East City Corporation. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 210.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,15,000/-
2	Providing for Citizen Assistance Cell (CAC) and Tapal Management System for Bengaluru East City Corporation (Quality and Cost Based Selection - QCBS). Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 300.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 4,50,000/-
3	Providing Emergency Relief Task Force Team to Bengaluru East City Corporation Control Room for the year 2026-27 (Zone-1, Mahadevapura and Zone-2, K.R. Pura). Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 131.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,96,500/-
4	Providing Computer Operators for K.R. Puram Zone-02, Office of Bengaluru East City Corporation. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 130.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,95,000/-
5	Providing Computer Operators for Mahadevapura Zone-01, Office of Bengaluru East City Corporation. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 206.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,09,000/-
6	Maintenance and Improvements to Horamavu BBMP Office Building and Office Premises in Ward No. 87, Horamavu. (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 49.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 98,000/-
7	Maintenance of K.R. Pura BBMP Office Building in Ward No. 93, Devasandra. (ST) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-
8	Improvements to K.R. Pura BBMP Office Building Premises in Ward No. 93, Devasandra. (SC) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-
9	Maintenance of Samudaya Bhavana at Chikkadevasandra in Ward No. 92, Basavanapura. (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 11.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 27,500/-
10	Maintenance of Existing Samudaya Bhavanas at Sadaramangala Slum Board and Bhairathi Village in Ward No. 99, Bairathi. (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-
11	Repairs to Primary Health Centers at Jayanthinagara Horamavu Village in Ward No. 87, Horamavu. (CAT-II(A)) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 17,500/-
12	Repairs to Tailoring Center Building near Kote Temple in Ward No. 91, K.R. Pura. (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,000/-
13	Improvements to Burial Ground at Horamavu Agrara and Horamavu Village in Ward No. 87, Horamavu. (CAT-II(A)) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-
14	Improvements to Burial Ground at Kalkere in Ward No. 88, Kalkere. (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-
15	Improvements to Burial Ground at Kothanuru Village and Kyalasanahalli in Ward No. 87, Horamavu. (SC) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 42.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42,000/-
16	Rain Water Harvesting at BBMP Office at K.R. Pura in Ward No. 93, Devasandra. (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,500/-
17	Rain Water Harvesting at BBMP Office at Horamavu and BBMP Hospital in Ward No. 87, Horamavu. (SC) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,500/-
18	Rain Water Harvesting at BBMP Hospital, Old Manjunatha Layout in Ward No. 90, Ramamurthygar. (Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 3.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 7,500/-
19	Assignment of Commercial Advertisement Rights in The Limits of Bengaluru East City Corporation. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,00,000/- (Rs. 16.00 Lakhs B.G and Rs. 4 Lakhs to be Paid in e-Procurement Portal)

Calendar of Events: 1) The Tender Documents can be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 23-02-2026. 2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 26-02-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer (MP&CS), K.R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560036. 3) Last Date for Submission of Tender Documents: 02-03-2026 before 16.00 Hours. 4) Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> at the Office of the Executive Engineer (MP&CS) on 03-03-2026 at 16.30 Hours onwards. Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (MP&CS), BECC.

Two awarded 20 years RI for selling ganja

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Two individuals, who were earlier arrested while transporting 850 kilograms of dry ganja, were sentenced to undergo 20 years of rigorous imprisonment each by a court in Sangareddy on Thursday.

The court also slapped a fine of ₹2 lakh on both of them.

The accused were identified as Jadav Bansilal alias Rathod Bansilal and Rathod Shankar, both residents of Chilapally thanda in Jharasangam mandal of Sangareddy district.

High Court notices to Centre, State over GHMC trifurcation

Bench gives one week time even as Additional Solicitor General and Advocate General seek three weeks to file counters; 'division in conflict with circular connected to 2027 census issued by Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The High Court on Thursday issued notices to the Centre and the State governments in a writ petition challenging the trifurcation of the erstwhile Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, contending it was in conflict with a circular connected to 2027 cen-

sus issued by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.

The Additional Solicitor General of India, appearing for both the Census Commissioner and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, along with the Advocate General, appearing for the State government, sought three weeks of time to file their counter affidavits. The Bench of Chief

Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohtashim, hearing the plea, gave time of one week to reply to the counter affidavits.

The petitioner D. Gurva Reddy, a businessman, assailed the GO Ms no. 55 through which the State government carved two new municipal corporations out of the existing GHMC by merging some

surrounding municipalities, maintaining that it was against the provisions of the Census Act 1948 read with Census Rules-1990. According to the petitioner, the Census Commissioner in a notification issued on June 16 of 2025 declared the reference date for the census as March 1, 2027. In another notification issued by the Ministry of Home Af-

fairs, it was directed to complete house listing operations between April 1 and September 30 of 2026. The Union Government also said the Directorates of Census Operations were required to send all jurisdictional changes as on July 1 of 2025. The trifurcation of the GHMC was in violation of the rules prescribed for the Census, the petitioner contended.

Redistribution of GHMC staff into 3 corporations starts

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

The State government has initiated steps to redistribute the existing staff of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation among the three new corporations proposed in place of the GHMC.

The State government has announced its resolve to create Cyberabad and Malkajgiri municipal corporations, retaining the core city under the GHMC. Accordingly, it has started the exercise to redeploy the existing staff at different levels to the three corporations holding consultations with different departments and experts on the options available. The development assumes significance as litigations have been filed in the High Court over the reorganisation of the GHMC at a time when there is a freeze on altering the profile of administrative unit till the Census work is completed.

There are broadly three categories of employees:

GHMC-born or those recruited directly to the corporation, officials and staff belonging to the Municipal Administration department in key sections like Town Planning and staff working on deputation from other departments like Forests. This is in addition to the huge number of contract and outsourcing workers engaged in different sections.

Officials see no scope for problems on account of redeployment, as factors like Presidential Orders and local status will not come into play. "Some employees are already in positions. Mechanism has to be evolved to redeploy the staff to make the three new corporations function effectively in discharge of their duties," senior officials said. While redistribution of staff's unlikely to pose any major problems, officials, however, feel that the division of assets and liabilities between the three new bodies will be a challenging task before the government.

APSRTC bus going to Anantapur overturns in Gadwal, 20 injured

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

An Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) bus travelling from Hyderabad to Anantapur overturned in the early hours of Thursday at Itikyapadapu, in Undavelli mandal of Jogulamba Gadwal district, leaving 20 passengers injured. No casualties were reported.

The bus, which started its journey from Ameerpet in Hyderabad, met with the accident at around 4 a.m.

According to Undavelli Police Sub-Inspector, Shekhar, the vehicle overturned after the driver allegedly

lost control while attempting to swerve towards the left side of the road.

"Preliminary probe suggests that the driver may have been sleepy at the time of the incident, leading to the loss of control," said the official. The driver, identified as Jairam, was taken into custody for further questioning.

Emergency response teams were immediately pressed into action.

The injured passengers were shifted to Kurnool Government Hospital, while some were admitted to a private hospital for treatment. An official informed that all the injured are out of danger.



The APSRTC bus which met with an accident in Undavelli mandal of Jogulamba Gadwal district on Thursday.

Two held for sexual assault on minor

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Two individuals, including a minor, have been arrested by Narsingi police for kidnap and sexual assault of a 16-year-old girl, while another minor accused remains at large.

The case came to light on Tuesday following a complaint lodged by the victim's mother. She stated that her daughter left for school at about 8.30 a.m. on February 16 but did not return home.

The police teams launched a search operation to locate the missing girl and traced her on the morning of February 18 at a double-bedroom housing complex in Chengicherla,

from where she was rescued.

According to the police, enquiries revealed that on February 7, the minor visited Charminar, where she got acquainted with a 16-year-old boy from Talab Katta. The two subsequently remained in contact over telephone. On Feb. 16, she went to Madina to meet him without informing her family members, and they spent time in and around the old city.

The police said that later that night, the boy, along with two friends identified as Imran and another minor, took her in an autorickshaw where they threatened, forced her to consume alcohol and sexually assaulted her.

Text & Context and Health

Weekday features on The Hindu epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry editorials, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (February 20, Friday), the following articles are available:

■ AI's workhorse: What is a GPU? newsth.live/aiworkhorseaiexp

■ Why the begin-early mantra is a significant prevention strategy in dentistry newsth.live/dentalcarekids

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHING PVT. LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Timings HYDERABAD

FRIDAY, FEB. 20	RISE 06:40	SET 18:19
SATURDAY, FEB. 21	RISE 06:40	SET 18:20
SUNDAY, FEB. 22	RISE 06:39	SET 18:20

Hyderabad Weather	max	min
Sangareddy	31	20
Warangal	31	20
Hyderabad City	31	20

Hyderabad City Today
31°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

Hyderabad City Tomorrow
32°C The weather will be dry. Day will be little warm. Night will be pleasant.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

Two chain snatchers arrested

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A woman and a bike taxi rider were nabbed by Jubilee Hills police for allegedly

snatching a gold chain from a pedestrian during the morning hours of February 17. Police recovered a gold chain weighing about 10 grams, a motorcy-

cle used in the offence and two mobile phones. The accused were identified as Chesetti Revathi, 33, a housewife, and Giddala Narendra, 23, a bike-taxi rider.

Ramzan Timings
Ifar (Friday) 6.25 p.m.
Sehar (Saturday) 5.18 a.m.

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001:2022 Certified Company)
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Spec No. PMMTC3-e-08/2026, Work: "Works-Lot-I: Integration of various applications to SAP PM Module and Lot-II: Integration of various applications to SAP PS Module", Date & Time of availability of Tender: 20.02.2026 at 18:00 PM, Web: <http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in>. Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER/ R.O. No. GMCC/APTRANSCO/4626

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NIT No.: 67; Name of Work: for 3 no works of Removal of Water Hyacinth and maintenance of Lake for 1 year in Rajendranagar Circle and Atapur Circle; Estimate Amount/ECV: Rs. 133.80 Lakhs; Downloading Start Date & Time: Dt. 19-02-2026 at 4.30 PM; Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bid: Dt. 26-02-2026 at 4.40 PM; Name & Address of EE/SE: Executive Engineer, Rajendranagar, GHMC, Cell No. 9989930608, e-mail id: eeet11.ghmc2@gmail.com. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajendranagar, GHMC
DIPR R.O.No.15632-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 19.02.2026

OFFICE OF THE MAHABUBABAD MUNICIPALITY
(E1/1616/EPROC-35/2025-26 Dated:20-02-2026)
(1) UIDF Works 2nd & Other Call Works: (1) Total No. of 2nd & Other Call E-procurement Works: 2 No's (Rs.170.50 Lakhs.) (2) Bid Submission Start & Received Closing Date & Time from Dt. 20-02-2026 @ 10.00 A.M to 23-02-2026 @ 10.00 A.M. (3) Bid Opening Date & Time: 23-02-2026 @ 10.10 A.M. Name & Address contact: Dy. E.E 9849903602 and <http://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Sd/- Commissioner, Mahabubabad Municipality
DIPR R.O.No.15615-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 19.02.2026

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
O/o. Chief Engineer, Construction-I, Room No. 447, A-Block, Vidyut Soudha, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500082
NOTIFICATION
Stage-I "In Principle" approval of the Central Government under section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the "Proposal for diversion of 4.4476 Ha of Forest Land in Medipally and Narapally RF for Construction of 220KV DC OH transmission line by making LILO of 220KV Ghanapur Chandrayangutta Circuit-II line at Loc.No.87-88 to M/S CPRI in Medchal -Malkajgiri District, Telangana State in favour of TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LTD, Hyderabad vide references hereunder.
1) Gol. MoEF & CC, IRO, Hyderabad. Online proposal No.: FPGT/TRANS/404434/2022 Dt. 26.09.2024
2) P.I.C.C.F. (HoFF), T.S. Hyd. R.C. No. FC4/FC26/27/2022. Dt. 16.10.2024
For further details and other conditions please visit forest website www.parivesh.nic.in Portal.
DIPR R.O. No.: 1194-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Sd/- Chief Engineer/Construction-I

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Bangalore - 560012.
Advertisement for the post of Registrar
Invites online applications for the post of Registrar. The detailed advertisement is available on the Institute's website.
Please visit the website: <https://iisc.ac.in/careers/>
The last date for receipt of applications is 21.03.2026. Sd/- REGISTRAR
Date: 20.02.2026

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH
An Institution of National Importance listed in the Schedule VII of the Constitution of India
Advertisement No. 01/2026(T) Dated 17.02.2026
Online Applications, to be filled up at the Careers Portal of the University <https://careers.amuonline.ac.in>, are invited from Indian Nationals (including Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholders under Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955) for recruitment to various Teaching Posts. Last date for receipt of Online Application Forms is 18.03.2026 up-to 11:59 P.M. and the last date for submission of the Hard Copies of the Online filled Application Forms is 02.04.2026 up-to 05:00 P.M. The University will not be responsible for the Postal delay.
Detailed Instructions for filling up the employment application forms have been given on Pages 08 to 10 of the above Advertisement. REGISTRAR

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number 1800 102 1878
Or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

KAKATIYA UNIVERSITY
WARANGAL - 506009
NOTIFICATION
Applications are invited for the appointment of Part Time Teacher services in various subjects offered in colleges of Kakatiya University for the academic year 2025-2026 on temporary basis. For more details of qualifications, vacancies, remuneration etc. please visit www.kakatiya.ac.in. Eligible candidates may apply on or before 28.02.2026 (5.00 p.m.) Sd/- REGISTRAR
DIPR R.O. No.: 216/A2/KU/2026; Date: 18/02/2026

A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Paryavaran Bhavan, APJC Colony Road, Vijayawada-520 007.
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION
APPCB is inviting applications from qualified, experienced and competent IT professionals for engagement purely on hiring basis for a period of One (1) year, viz., will be extended for second year based on performance. No. of Positions: (i) Full Stack Developer (Technology & IT): 1 (one) only. (ii) Data Base Administrator: 1 (one) only. (iii) Systems & Network Administrator (AI, IoT, Networking & Applications): 1 (one) only. Experience & Desirability: as mentioned in notified advertisement. For eligibility, qualifications and other details, please visit APPCB website: <https://apcb.ap.gov.in>. The online applications will be opened from 20-02-2026 with last date for submission 6-3-2026, 05:00 PM. Sd/- MEMBER SECRETARY, APPCB
Date: 19-02-2026

राष्ट्रीय सिद्धा संस्थान / NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SIDHA
आयुष मंत्रालय / Ministry of Ayush भारत सरकार / Government of India
ताम्रम सन्तोशियम / Tambram Sanatorium चेन्नई / Chennai - 600 047.
फोन / Tele : 044-22411611 ईमेल / Email: director.nis-tn@gov.in / chennai-nis@gov.in
वेब / Website: <https://nischennai.org>

संख्या / No. NIS/1-1/Recruitment-Contract/2026 तारीख / Date : 19.02.2026
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO: 01/2026

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for filling up the following posts on contract basis / part time basis at National Institute of Siddha, Chennai

S.No.	Name of the Post	Total No. of Post	UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS
1	Professor (Maruthuvam)	01 Post	01	-	-	-	-
2	Professor (Sattam Samtha Maruthuvamum Nanju Maruthuvamum)	01 Post	01	-	-	-	-
3	Associate Professor (Varma Maruthuvam)	01 Post (against Regular vacancy)	01	-	-	-	-
4	Associate Professor (Noi Anugavidhi)	01 Post (anticipated vacancy)	-	-	01	-	-
5	Associate Professor (Gunapadam- Marunthakaviyal)	01 Post (anticipated vacancy)	-	01	-	-	-
6	Assistant Professor (Maruthuvam)	01 Post (against Regular vacancy)	-	-	01	-	-
7	Assistant Professor (Sirappu Maruthuvam)	01 Post (against Regular vacancy)	-	01	-	-	-
8	Assistant Professor (Noi Anugavidhi)	01 Post (anticipated vacancy)	01	-	-	-	-
9	Assistant Professor (Gunapadam- Marunthakaviyal)	01 Post (anticipated vacancy)	-	-	-	-	01
10	Assistant Professor (Microbiology)	01 Post (anticipated vacancy)	01	-	-	-	-
11	Assistant Professor (Bio-Chemistry)	01 Post (anticipated vacancy)	01	-	-	-	-
12	Resident Medical Officer (8) / Emergency Medical Officer (2) / House Officer (1)	RMO-08 Post (6 post anticipated), EMO -02 Post (1 post anticipated) HO - 01 Post (anticipated vacancy)	06	03	01	-	01
13	Medical Officer (Kothimangalam Tribal OPD)	01 Post (anticipated vacancy)	01	-	-	-	-
14	Veterinarian	01 Post (anticipated vacancy)	01	-	-	-	-

Part Time (Vacant Post) 1. Surgical Specialist - 01 post 2. Ophthalmologist - 01 post

For details regarding the details of the above posts, educational qualifications, age, experience, general conditions etc., please visit "NOTIFICATIONS" in the Institute website <https://nischennai.org>. Any updates / modifications in this regard will be posted in the above website only. Director

SPOTLIGHT



Tribal students use Artificial Intelligence Assisted Mathematics Learning tool during a class at the Multipurpose Centre in Limbuguda, a tribal hamlet, in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district. P. SRIDHAR

A tribal hamlet's tryst with AI-assisted tools

In the remote hills of Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, Limbuguda — home to less than 40 Kolam families — is witnessing a quiet transformation. A state-of-the-art Multipurpose Centre, established under the PM-JANMAN scheme, is leveraging AI-assisted learning tools to improve education, alongside healthcare and nutrition services, reshaping aspirations in one of Telangana's most marginalised PVTG habitations, writes **P. Sridhar**

Tucked away in the north-eastern corner of Telangana, about 320 kilometres from the State capital Hyderabad, Limbuguda — a tiny Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) hamlet in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district — is charting a new course for transformative change through the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

But how did this tiny hamlet, surrounded by hilly terrain in the tribal heartland of Wankidi mandal bordering Maharashtra, shoot into prominence? Limbuguda earned wide recognition for its prized possession — the Multipurpose Centre (MPC), equipped with AI-assisted learning tools.

In July last year, the MPC was set up in Limbuguda under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) scheme at an estimated cost of ₹60 lakh. AI-aided tools were introduced at the MPC to enhance learning outcomes among PVTG children.

Incidentally, the school dropout rate is high among PVTGs, whose population is estimated to be around 16,092 in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district.

Billed as the first-of-its-kind state-of-the-art centre in PVTG habitations, it houses an ANM centre, an Anganwadi, a conference hall with a projector, and a computer lab, among other facilities.

The centre aims to provide education, healthcare, nutrition, and livelihood support — all under one roof — while promoting the holistic development of PVTGs, with a thrust on tribal empowerment and cultural revival.

Limbuguda is one among the 149 PVTG habitations in the predominantly tribal-populated district. Kolams constitute an overwhelming majority of the PVTGs in the combined Adilabad district. They are among the most marginalised and socio-economically backward tribal communities. Limbuguda was selected for the targeted welfare initiative under PM-JANMAN because of its geographical remoteness and other parameters.

A Cement Concrete (CC) road laid to connect the MPC, running along an irrigation canal, leads to Limbuguda, home to less than 40 families of the aboriginal Kolam tribe. Standing in the middle of the obscure hamlet, surrounded by hills, the MPC serves as a beacon of hope for the local tribal population and plans are afoot to extend this tech-driven initiative to other PVTG hamlets across the district under the aegis of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Uttoor.

Kolam farmers in Limbuguda and surrounding tribal habitations rely on rain-fed agriculture and mostly cultivate cotton in black soil. During the off-season, they work in agricultural fields or take up daily wage labour.

Q Around 29 MPCs have been sanctioned for the district under the PM-JANMAN scheme. Several infrastructure and welfare measures — including roads, mobile medical units, housing, electricity connections and mobile networks — have also been approved.

RAMA DEVI, Deputy Director (Tribal Welfare), Kumram Bheem Asifabad

Sitting before a row of mud-and-tiled houses abutting the lane beside the MPC, Athram Jaithu proudly says that he donated a portion of his small ancestral land for the centre, rooted in his belief that education alone can empower PVTGs.

"I donated a piece of land for the Multipurpose Centre with the hope that it will spread the light of education and improve the living conditions of our people," Jaithu says with contentment. He is among several small Adivasi farmers who depend on agriculture for sustenance.

Affectionately called 'Devara' by his villagers, Jaithu regrets not being able to ensure higher education to his two children, who took up agriculture after completing their SSC.

Limited opportunities

Echoing similar concerns, another Kolam farmer attributes poor literacy among Kolams to poverty, lack of connectivity, and limited opportunities.

"Not a single person from Limbuguda and Bheemguda Kolam habitations has secured a government job so far," he says, noting that one Athram Anand Rao returned to farming after completing his B.Sc.

Two other youngsters from Limbuguda — Athram Bheem Rao and Sidam Bheem Rao — are currently pursuing M.Pharm and B.Sc courses, respectively. "I am determined to secure a government job, preferably in a uniformed service, after graduation," says Sidam Bheem Rao.

Elaborating on the functioning of the centre, an official of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Uttoor, says that the MPC is em-

ploying an integrated approach aimed at tackling malnutrition and anaemia among children and women of PVTGs while bridging the digital divide between urban and rural (tribal) areas through AI-assisted learning tools.

Meanwhile, Aniga, a local villager, is all praise for the aesthetics at the centre and says that the impressive murals on the walls of the centre highlight tribal heritage and valour of Adivasi warriors - Kumram Bheem and his follower Kumram Suru.

On the change being ushered in by the centre in the hamlet, Sidam Maru, another resident of the hamlet, says that he never touched a computer in his life but adds with pride that his daughter, a student at the Tribal Welfare Primary School in Limbuguda, handles a computer at the MPC right in their habitation.

Speaking about the use of AI tools in teaching, instructor Shivaraj says that they are using tools like Assisted Language Learning (ALL) and Assisted



The MPC initiative under the PM-JANMAN scheme is well-intended. Its success ultimately depends on effective and transparent implementation. Real empowerment of PVTGs lies not merely in infrastructure creation but in sustained investments in education and skill development that enable tribal communities to access welfare schemes and achieve financial self-reliance.

ATHRAM BHEEMRAO, president of Telangana PVTGs Association

Learning (AML) to enhance the language and mathematical skills of tribal students of classes 3, 4 and 5. For students of classes 6, 7, 8, and 9, concepts of maths and physics are being explained by deploying the Khan Academy's tech-enabled learning resources, he noted.

Meanwhile, describing the MPC initiative as well-intended, Athram Bheemrao, president of the State PVTGs Association, emphasises that its success ultimately depends on effective and transparent implementation. He says that real empowerment of PVTGs lies not merely in infrastructure creation but in sustained investments in education and skill development that enable tribal communities to access welfare schemes and

achieve financial self-reliance. He also calls for complementary measures such as vocational training for Adivasi artisans to revive traditional livelihoods and the introduction of off-grid solar power projects in remote PVTG habitations located on forest fringes.

Local voices echo similar aspirations while pointing to persistent gaps. Jalapathi of Khirdi gram panchayat observes that most Kolams are multilingual, conversant in Telugu, Marathi and Gondi besides their mother tongue Kolami. In his view, the MPC concept is well-designed to provide students from PVTG communities with a nurturing environment that opens new windows to the outside world.

The centre's visibility has drawn attention from policymakers as well. Union Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra, who visited Limbuguda last year, reportedly appreciated the efforts of the ITDA, Uttoor, and described the facility as a "Lighthouse MPC" — a potential role model for tribal regions across the country.

Despite this recognition, connectivity remains a pressing concern. Residents of Limbuguda, Bheemguda and Khirdi underline the absence of a regular bus service linking their habitations to the Wankidi mandal headquarters. Improved transport access, they say, would allow tribal children to utilise the MPC's educational and digital learning facilities without hardship.

Need for high-speed internet

Digital infrastructure is another area requiring attention. Villagers stress the need for reliable high-speed internet at the MPC to ensure seamless operation of AI-assisted learning tools and online educational resources. They also hope that the centre could host seminars and awareness programmes to familiarise tribal students with emerging technologies while promoting tribal arts and culture.

According to a youngster, several social challenges persist in remote regions. Superstitions, inadequate housing, and limited livelihood opportunities continue to affect sections of PVTG populations, highlighting the need for broader socio-economic interventions alongside technological initiatives, he adds.

Cultural preservation

At the same time, cultural preservation remains central to local discourse. Gangu, an Adivasi artist from Tiryani, underscores the importance of safeguarding traditional knowledge systems, particularly indigenous understanding of medicinal plants and nutritional practices. He recalls that the tribal resistance against the Nizam regime is replete with stories of valour, including the role of Kolam warrior Kumram Suru, a close associate of the legendary Kumram Bheem.

Providing an administrative perspective, Rama Devi, Deputy Director (Tribal Welfare), Kumram Bheem Asifabad, says: "29 MPCs have been sanctioned for the district under the PM-JANMAN scheme. Several infrastructure and welfare measures — including roads, mobile medical units, housing, electricity connections and mobile networks — have also been approved based on needs identified during a survey conducted last year."

Officials say that the Limbuguda MPC forms part of a broader multipronged strategy aimed at delivering healthcare, nutrition and digital learning services under one roof.

However, community leaders and youth representatives stressed that such initiatives must be supplemented by targeted skill development programmes to promote sustainable livelihoods and financial self-reliance among PVTG youth and women.



The Multipurpose Centre in Limbuguda, a tribal hamlet, in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district.

Prabalika M Borah
prabalika.m@thehindu.co.in

On a Sunday morning at Aqsa Fatima's farmhouse near Shamshabad Airport, Hyderabad, guests sip fresh coconut water plucked straight from the surrounding trees. On the expansive lawn, banquet-style tables are laid with flowers that, like the coconuts, appear to have been sourced from the farm itself. One by one, diners arrive for a traditional Hyderabad breakfast: khichdi, khatta (a Hyderabad special tangy dal), kheema (minced meat curry), khagina (egg dish), papad, naan (bread), paya (lamb trotters), and more.

This is Dakhni Dastarkhan, Aqsa Fatima's (a hobby chef) ticketed dining experience for over 25 guests at a time, which they book well in advance and arrive prepared for an almost regal Hyderabad spread.

The idea was born out of Aqsa's frustration with how Hyderabad cuisine is often misrepresented. "I learnt cooking from my father Mehboob Alam Khan, who is known for his expertise in Hyderabad food," she says.

Diners are drawn to these gatherings because they offer what restaurants often cannot: limited-run, signature dishes prepared with intent and explained with care.

Hyderabad has no shortage of places to eat, catering to every budget. Yet consistency, originality, and quality can be uneven. For those looking to eat thoughtfully, whether with friends or strangers, dining clubs are stepping in. These are not limited to supper alone.

One such space is Legally Delicious in Begumpet, hosted by Pragati Mitta, a lawyer and trained chef, where



Buy invitation only

How curated, ticketed meals are offering an alternative to restaurants in the city

seasonality shapes the menu. Some dinners revolve around mangoes, others around Ramen bowls or summer rolls. Legally Delicious announces her pop ups (which is almost every week) on her social



Feast for all (Clockwise from above) Onam Sadya by Bhojanam Banter; haleem at Dakhni Dastarkhan; guests at Legally Delicious. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

media page and through WhatsApp broadcast. The menus are priced between ₹2,500 to ₹3,500.

The number of dining clubs in Hyderabad may be modest, but their influence is growing. They appeal to diners seeking food that feels personal, deliberate, and rooted in storytelling.

Another club grounded in nostalgia and regional pride is Bhojanam Banter, run by siblings Krishna Kireeti Kakarla and Kavya Yenigalla. Their inspiration comes from the food they grew up eating in their home in Godavari, and a shared love for South Indian cuisine.

Their Pelli Bhojanam and Onam Sadya have been especially well received, as has their effort to spotlight lesser-known dishes such as avari kudumbu and tenkayala rasam.

Then there is Pazirai, which began in June last year with a sit-down dinner at Aziz Bagh, a 126-year-old Hyderabad heritage home. Pazirai curates four-course menus inspired by old Hyderabad and Lucknow households, weaving food together with architectural and cultural narratives.

Sustainability at the core

With workshops and talks, the day-long event is set to unite more than 30-plus communities



Creative duo Dakta Dub and Harsha Maheshwari aka Komet. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Neeraja Murthy
neeraja.b@thehindu.co.in

Community spirit takes centre stage at Earth Bound, a day-long festival in Hyderabad that brings together sustainability, wellness, art and music. The 15-hour event, to be held at Phoenix Arena from 6am to 10pm, will see over 30 community-led initiatives come together for workshops, talks and stalls, making it a vibrant, people-driven gathering. From a consciously

curated flea market and vegan food to handmade creations, movement practices, sound sessions and music inspired by Jamaica, the festival spans art, wellness and soulful rhythm. "Earth Bound stands out for being a 100% cruelty-free and zero-waste event," says co-organiser Harsha Maheshwari. With sustainability at its core, organisers including Monkey Sound System, Plantarium, Viswa Sustainable Foundation, Tree Huggers Club, Limitless Greenz and others bring their

expertise to create an immersive yet mindful experience. The first edition of this monthly festival, scheduled to run until May, is pet-friendly and offers both indoor and outdoor sessions for all ages, including children. Given the rising temperatures, outdoor spaces will be covered. "We also have wellness and fitness teachers leading breathwork sessions designed to keep the body cool, even in warmer conditions," says Harsha. The programme includes sessions on the four phases of menstruation, marathon preparation and thematic performances addressing environmental crises, alongside workshops on beatboxing, nutrition, making bio-enzymes, waste awareness and sculpting. There are also talks on mental health, sustainability and inclusivity by Mobbera Foundation.

Curated as a large-format, collaborative event, Earth Bound places emphasis on community-led initiatives. "We didn't want the festival to revolve around a single theme," explains Harsha. "Organising a cruelty-free, zero-waste event with no-harm guidelines for animals and plants can be exhausting for one community. When multiple communities come together, each contributes their strengths, which strengthens the festival's overall impact."

Earth Bound at Phoenix Arena; Entry free; workshops are ticketed; @Earthbound on social media



OPENS TOMORROW

THE MOST COVETED
FASHION EDIT



HI LIFE
EXHIBITION

Fashion | Style | Decor | Luxury

21.22.23 FEB

OVER 350+ TOP LABELS

NOVOTEL

HYDERABAD CONVENTION CENTRE

10 am - 8 pm | Valet Parking | Entry fee Rs.100

Telangana

IN BRIEF



Harish meets Suman, accuses Congress of misusing power

BRS leader and Siddipet MLA T. Harish Rao has accused the ruling Congress party of resorting to flagrant misuse of power during the elections for the posts of municipal chairpersons and vice-chairpersons in various parts of the State. He was speaking to reporters after meeting former MLA Balka Suman at the District Jail in Adilabad during 'mulaqat' on Thursday. Mr. Suman was sent to jail on Wednesday after being remanded in judicial custody for 14 days in connection with a 'violent clash' during the Kyathanpalli municipal chairperson election in Mancherla district. Mr. Rao said the BRS-CPI combine had won 14 of the total 22 wards in Kyathanpalli municipality. But Congress leaders forcibly prevented us from winning the municipal chairperson election by resorting to intimidation, he charged. Alleging that ruling party functionaries attacked BRS cadre at Kyathanpalli on Tuesday, he sought the intervention of Governor Jishnu Dev Varma.

Hall tickets for Inter exams

The hall tickets for Intermediate Examinations were released by the Board of Intermediate Education (BIE) on Thursday. Students were asked to collect their hall tickets from college principals. The Board will also send a link through SMS to download hall tickets through registered mobile numbers, as per a press note issued on Thursday. The hall tickets will carry a QR code which students can scan to locate their examination centre. The examinations are set to begin from February 25. Around 9.9 lakh students are set to take the exams.

With prayers



United in belief: Devotees break their fast on the first day of the holy month of Ramadan at Mecca Masjid in Old City of Hyderabad on Thursday. NAGARA GOPAL

Kavitha to launch party in May, eyes KCR's earlier turf Siddipet

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD



K. Kavitha

Telangana Jagruti president Kalvakuntla Kavitha, on Thursday, announced that her proposed political party would be formally launched in the first week of May, and she would prefer to contest from Siddipet, which is now held by her cousin T. Harish Rao and earlier represented by her father and BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

In an informal chat with the media, she said that the new party would be rooted firmly in Telangana and with its political ideology. On her choice of contest, she said that it would be either Siddipet or Bodhan.

Ms. Kavitha also said that her party would continuously question the policies and actions of the Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party and Bharat Rashtira Samithi. She predicted that the BJP's presence in the

State of Telangana would gradually diminish. On future electoral strategy, she said her party would consider contesting the MP/MLA and ZPTC elections in alliance with another party. She was hopeful that by the time the GHMC elections were held, the Election Commission would allot a symbol to her party, and asserted that the party would contest the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) polls on its own symbol. She revealed that sever-

al leaders from the BRS were keen to join her new party and that many of them were already in touch with her. "I will share details when the time is right," she said. Responding to criticism about the prospects of her new party, she questioned why failed male-led political experiments were rarely discussed. Why leaders such as Chiranjeevi and Devender Goud were not similarly scrutinised, and why Rajagopal Reddy's political shifts were not discussed. "No one talks about them, but women are constantly undermined," she said.

She revealed that several BRS leaders were already in touch with her, and was hopeful of a party symbol by the time of GHMC polls

Allocate funds for poll promises: KTR to CM

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao urged the State government to ensure the allocation of adequate funds in the budget for the financial year 2026-27 for all schemes promised under the Congress party's six guarantees, 420 assurances and other declarations made during the 2023 Assembly elections.

In an open letter to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday, ahead of the government's preparation for the budget presentation in the Assembly, Mr. Rao alleged that the Congress government had failed to deliver on nearly 95% of its election promises despite being in power for almost half its term.

Claiming that people are losing patience over the government's failure, Mr. Rama Rao warned that the State government would

face public backlash if it failed to provide proper allocations, at least in the coming budget.

KTR said that although the Congress had come to power projecting six guarantees as transformative welfare assurances, not a single major promise had seen full implementation in two years.

Accusing government of misleading the public with distractions, he alleged that both the manifesto and guarantee cards distributed by Congress before elections had now become 'outstanding due cards', as no beneficiary groups had received the benefits.

KTR demanded significant budgetary allocations for women, farmers, students, youth, auto drivers, and vulnerable communities. The former Minister accused the government of betraying farmers by failing to provide the promised input subsidy.

Telangana govt. likely to fall short of revenue targets in current fiscal

Govt. achieves 72.87% target till end of January, borrowings constituting a major chunk, with just two months remaining; earnings in the form of Excise duties stand at ₹19,083 crore

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

The State government appears to be falling well short of the anticipated revenue collections with the financial year 2025-26 fast coming to a close.

The State registered revenue receipts of ₹2.07 lakh crore till January end, 72.87% of the ₹2.84 lakh crore projected in the budget estimates, with just two months remaining for the conclusion of the fiscal.

Tax revenue by January end was in line with the overall receipts at ₹1.26 lakh crore, 72.04% of the ₹1.75 lakh crore of the budget estimates. A major chunk of the receipts was in the form of borrowings and other liabilities which stood at ₹69,187 crore, 125.53% of the ₹54,009 crore projected in the budget estimates.

Revenue through Goods and Services Tax till January end was ₹43,673 crore, 73.15% of the ₹59,704 crore estimated and that through sales tax was ₹27,911 crore against ₹37,463 crore of the



Non-tax revenue continued to be sluggish at ₹7,864 crore, 24.87% of the ₹31,618 crore of budget estimates. REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO

budget estimates. Earnings in the form of State Excise duties stood at ₹19,083 crore, 69.09% of ₹27,623 crore of the budget estimates.

Earnings on Excise duties front continue to be slower in spite of the State mopping up significant revenue through increase of licence fee for retail liquor outlets by ₹1 lakh – from ₹2 lakh to ₹3 lakh.

Non-tax revenue continued to be sluggish at ₹7,864 crore, 24.87% of the ₹31,618 crore of budget estimates so also were accruals in the form of grants-in-aid and contribu-

tions which remained at ₹4,213 crore, just 18.49% of the ₹22,782 crore of budget estimates. The State's share of Union Taxes was relatively higher at ₹16,496 crore, 77.83% of the ₹21,195 crore projected.

On the expenditure front, interest payments continue to be on the higher side at ₹24,085 crore, close to ₹5,000 crore higher than ₹19,369 crore of the budget estimates.

The outgo in the form of interest payment is expected to be around ₹30,000 crore at the end of the fiscal. Expenditure on account of pension payments

State registered a revenue deficit of ₹10,566 crore at the end of 10 months, 385% higher than ₹2,738 crore surplus while fiscal deficit was ₹69,148 crore. Interest payments continue to be on the higher side at ₹24,085 crore

too had crossed ₹13,109 crore of the budget estimates and reached ₹15,717 crore while payment of salaries and wages till January end accounted to ₹39,858 crore, 89.61% of the ₹44,478 crore of the budget estimates.

The State registered a revenue deficit of ₹10,566 crore at the end of 10 months, 385% higher than ₹2,738 crore surplus while fiscal deficit was ₹69,148 crore. Primary deficit at the end of January breached the budget estimates by over ₹10,000 crore reaching ₹45,063 crore against the projected ₹34,640 crore.



Independent corporator from Karimnagar Sagan Komurayya joins the BJP in the presence of State BJP chief N. Ramchander Rao and Union MoS Bandi Sanjay Kumar, on Thursday. RAMAKRISHNA G

BJP's municipal poll show fails to match its big expectations

V. Geetanath
HYDERABAD

From winning eight LS seats and electing eight MLAs to the Assembly, expectations were high within the Telangana BJP ahead of the municipal polls. But the results have turned out to be a dampener.

While BJP won the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation and secured the Mayor's post, which rivals allege came through questionable manoeuvring, and opened its account in new urban pockets, the party leaders had hoped for a far more sweeping performance after its poor show in GP polls.

The party claims it has improved its vote share from 13% in the 2023 Assembly elections to 15% now, suggesting a gradual rise in its urban support. Its ward tally has grown from 240 in 2020 to around 340, and it has emerged as the single largest party in over 25 municipalities, compared to only two earlier.

However, several leaders say the top leadership created "unrealistic expectations" and "unnecessary hype". They point to questionable ticket selections, poor coordination between the State and local units, disruptive role of Rebels, and MPs and MLAs being allowed a free hand. Some argue that mixing national issues and com-

munal rhetoric with local development priorities also hurt the party's prospects.

"Most MPs and MLAs are not ideologically bound to the party. We are not sure of their agenda," a senior leader remarked. This criticism gained weight as party leaders aligned with either BRS or Congress in several municipalities to secure or share posts such as mayor and deputy mayor.

State party president N. Ramchander Rao insists that BJP gained in new regions despite "gerry-mandering of wards" by government. "We are now a strong force in 25-plus municipalities, won Karimnagar, became the largest party in Nizamabad MC, and narrowly lost many wards, finishing second to Congress. BRS and Congress saw their vote share decline. We performed well in Adilabad, Narayanpet, Gadwal, Armoor, Mancherla, and Metpalli. We also gained significant votes in Kothagudem, Aswaraopeta, Parkal and Bhupalapally."

Decentralising decision-making and giving MPs and MLAs autonomy has worked, he said and accused the Congress of "misusing official machinery and money power" and other parties "ganging up", claiming that BJP would have won more seats otherwise.

₹5.80 cr. for Telangana Thalli statues at IDOCs

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The government has accorded administrative sanction of ₹5.80 crore for the installation of Telangana Thalli statues at all the 33 Integrated District Office Complexes (IDOCs).

The works would be completed by December 9,

birthday of Sonia Gandhi. The sanction was issued following a request from the chief engineer of the R&B Department, seeking allocation of funds and permission.

Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj said that the chief engineer would take the necessary action to ensure timely execution.

'No farmhouse governance in Congress'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Congress MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy alleged that BRS MLA T. Harish Rao was confused and rattled after being 'rejected'

by the people in municipal elections. Reacting to Mr. Rao's comments, he said that "tall words such as self-rule, identity, self-respect and dignity sounded hollow" in the context of BRS's 10-year rule.

He pointed out that BRS had drawn a 'clean zero' in successive elections, and asserted that people were no longer paying attention to its "petty statements".

He accused Mr. Rao of staging dramas in the

name of letters. He also rejected Mr. Harish Rao's allegations of Congress party meetings in New Delhi and said, "Unlike BRS, there is no farmhouse governance, without a Cabinet."

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: 040-27155005 • 98497 93373 • 97040 74747
• 95023 25317 • 98852 80564
or Contact your nearest Authorised space sellers

SITUATION VACANT

FINANCE

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE

Ida Scudder Road, Vellore-4, TN.

SITUATION VACANT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

Post : Jr. Accountant (term)
Qualification : B. Com + One Year Computer Training
Salary : As per Institutional Rule
Age Limit : 30 years and below
Accommodation : Not Provided
Job Preference : Proficient in accounting standards and concepts, financial analysis, maintaining accurate books of Accounts, Taxation, Budget and Costing and Accounts finalization. Computer savvy. Should have passed Typewriting higher grade. Strong written and oral Communication skills. Analytical & numerical aptitude.

Please log on to
<https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmccpp/listapplication.aspx>
Apply on or before 28th February 2026

Note: Only regular mode will be accepted, private or correspondence will not be accepted. Final year students are not eligible. Applications should be made online. Application through other job portals will not be considered.

READ
SPORTSTAR
EVERY FORTNIGHT.

TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, K. Draksharani D/o Sudarshanam, now known as Perla Sandhyarani W/o Perla Madhusudhan, P/O H.No 13-915/A, BN Colony, Topran, Medak, Telangana-502334, shall henceforth be known as Perla Sandhyarani.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CAUTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby issued to the General Public that, I, Mrs. Kamakshi Jyosna Rayabarapu along with erstwhile partner i.e., Numbercrunchers Careers Pvt. Ltd., incorporated a partnership firm, at will, registered as No.13/2021 on the file of Registrar of Firms, Hyderabad South, under the name and style of 'M/S.KSHETHRA FARMS' ('Firm') for the purpose of carrying on business in real estate and other allied activities, on 18.12.2020.

Various disputes arose between me, and the erstwhile partner of the Firm and legal proceedings were initiated by both the parties. Subsequently, the firm was reconstituted vide reconstitution deed dated 04.09.2024, registered on 23.09.2024 by including Ramakrishna Rayabarapu as the incoming partner and Numbercrunchers Careers Pvt. Ltd. (retired from the firm, consequently, I have dissolved the Firm by issuing a Notice of Dissolution dated 28.01.2026 and as such the Firm stood dissolved from that date.

The General Public are hereby cautioned not to deal with any person representing himself and/or itself as a partner or agent of the Firm, or to deal with anyone purporting to deal in the business of the Firm and that I will not be liable in any manner whatsoever in respect of such transactions.
Kamakshi Jyosna Rayabarapu
Address: Site No. 22, 3rd Floor, MCHS Layout, Jakkur, Bangalore, 560064.

IN BRIEF

Stormwater harvesting facility inaugurated at CSIR-NGRI

An upgraded 'Rain Gardens Pilot R&D Facility' of the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), a science-driven initiative aimed at enhancing groundwater recharge and strengthening urban water resilience through green infrastructure, was inaugurated on the institute's campus on Wednesday. NGRI Research Council Chairman Shailesh Nayak inaugurated the upgraded facility in the presence of Institute Director Prakash Kumar, senior scientist M. J. Nandan, and other officials. The latest upgrade included a redesigned hydraulic layout to handle higher runoff volumes; optimisation of engineered soil media to improve infiltration efficiency; strengthening of inlet-outlet structures for regulated flow; and the integration of geological, hydrogeological and geophysical data to enhance aquifer recharge pathways. The improvements have resulted in an average groundwater rise of 2.3 metres and enabled the sustainable withdrawal of about 46,000 litres of water per day for horticulture needs on the campus. The project began in 2007 featuring nine recharge ponds and a rain garden designed to capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff. The system harvested nearly 200 cubic metres of water per rainfall event.

Ruling front, Opposition unite against film *The Kerala Story 2*

Rival coalitions in Kerala have unanimously condemned the film as one that brazenly advances the Sangh Parivar's Hindu majoritarian agenda by demonising minority communities, chiefly Muslims

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ruling CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) in Kerala have closed ranks against the upcoming film *The Kerala Story 2*.

The fronts have unanimously condemned the movie as one that brazenly advances the Sangh Parivar's Hindu majoritarian agenda. Both alliances accused the makers of the film of seeking to demonise Muslims as "love jihadists" who lure Hindu women into marriage with the



Secular Kerala which rejected *The Kerala Story* would treat its sequel with equal contempt, says CM Pinarayi Vijayan.

secular Islamists. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan raised the red flag on Wednesday urging the public to be wary of the "communally prejudiced" film's divisive messaging. The film sought to obfuscate Kerala's development and social progress by portraying the State as a fertile recruitment ground for fundamentalists. Secular Kerala which rejected *The Kerala Story* would treat its sequel with equal contempt, he added. Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal said the film was the Sangh Parivar's latest propaganda tool. He said the movie politicised culinary preferen-

ces by condemning beef eaters as subaltern citizens and anti-nationals, while elevating cow worship as a marker of true nationalism. Meanwhile, the film's director Kamakhya Narayan Singh told television channels that the movie was not Kerala-specific. "... I have relied on hundreds of newspaper cuttings that throw light on similar incidents in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The movie aims to create public awareness," he said.

But, BJP State president Rajeev Chandrasekhar said love jihad was a "harsh ground reality which worried families in Kerala."

ACB raids Dundigal Municipal Commissioner's office, several financial irregularities unearthed

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) conducted a surprise check at the office of the Municipal Commissioner in Dundigal, Gandimaisamma mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri district, on February 18, and unearthed several irregularities in administrative and financial functioning.

According to the ACB, the operation was carried out by the City Range-I unit based on credible information. The team was assisted

by officials from audit and technical departments to verify administrative records, financial transactions, attendance registers, statutory registers, pending applications and the overall functioning of the municipal office.

During the searches, officials found evidence of bribery through WhatsApp chats involving a Town Planning supervisor. The ACB stated that unauthorised financial transactions were routed to a firm belonging to the supervisor's husband. Bank statements

of the concerned officials are to be verified to examine the source of credits and ascertain any link to the alleged irregularities.

The ACB also found that one Assistant Municipal Commissioner and five outsourced staff members were absent without authorisation. Manipulation of attendance records of sanitary workers by sanitary field assistants was also detected.

Further scrutiny revealed that 49 building permission applications were pending, including 12

that had exceeded the stipulated 21-day time limit. In 28 out of 32 unauthorised construction cases, second notices had not been issued as required. The ACB also observed illegal grants of permission for additional floors. Officials stated that office records, statutory registers, file notings, digital data and related documents seized during the search are being examined. A detailed report will be submitted to the government recommending necessary action against those concerned.

U.S. returnee steals gold from home

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A 32-year-old man was arrested for allegedly stealing gold ornaments of his family members and staging a house break-in to mislead the police and his relatives.

The case was registered with the Chikkadpally police after he lodged a complaint claiming unknown persons had committed theft at his penthouse in Alekhya Estate on Feb. 9.

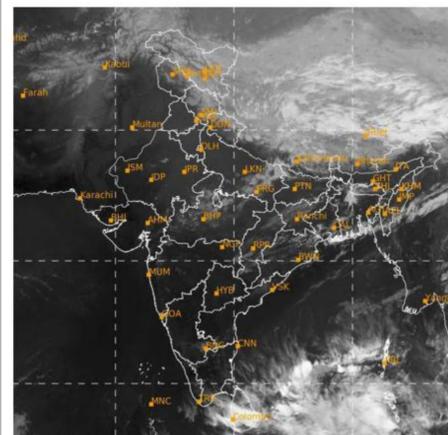
The accused, Bhaskar Pramod Mula, 32, initially reported that unidentified

persons trespassed into the house and stole one gold chain, six gold bangles, two gold rings, one silver plate weighing about 500 grams, and two silver bowls weighing about 60 grams.

Inconsistent replies
During the course of investigation, police found inconsistencies in his version. "The accused completed B.Tech in 2014 and went to the U.S. for higher studies but discontinued and returned to India," said an officer.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INP/SAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18:15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe. Squally weather with wind speed 40 to 50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph likely to prevail over Gulf of Mannar and Comorin area, adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean, along and off west Sri Lanka coast, over some parts of southeast Bay of Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	31.4	15.2	Kozhikode	35.7	25.1		
Ahmedabad	31.5	18.5	Kurnool	35.0	20.2		
Aizawl	33.3	10.4	Lucknow	29.5	16.8		
Allahabad	28.4	13.6	Madurai	35.0	23.2		
Bengaluru	31.3	17.5	Mangaluru	32.4	23.6		
Bhopal	26.4	14.4	Mumbai	30.5	20.4		
Bhubaneswar	33.8	15.9	Mysuru	32.4	21.4		
Chandigarh	0.3	27.2	13.7	New Delhi	0.3	28.0	11.4
Chennai	32.0	22.2	Patna	29.2	16.0		
Coimbatore	33.0	20.6	Port Blair	30.6	26.2		
Dehradun	25.9	13.4	Puducherry	30.1	21.2		
Gangtok	20.3	10.2	Pune	33.9	21.3		
Goa	31.6	22.0	Raipur	33.2	19.0		
Guwahati	32.0	14.6	Ranchi	29.5	13.0		
Hubballi	34.0	19.0	Shillong	23.6	10.7		
Hyderabad	30.5	20.0	Shimla	20.8	9.4		
Imphal	29.8	8.9	Srinagar	20.1	0.7		
Jaipur	25.2	12.8	Thiruvananthapuram	35.4	24.3		
Kochi	32.6	25.6	Tiruchi	32.7	21.0		
Kohima	23.4	10.9	Vijayawada	31.5	19.4		
Kolkata	31.0	16.6	Visakhapatnam	31.3	21.7		

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	YESTERDAY
Ahmedabad	70	76	29	114	185	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Cuttack, Odisha
Bengaluru	24	101	20	48	120	recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 303 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya, recorded a healthy AQI score of 36
Chennai	6	14	53	92	145	
Delhi	33	82	79	283	230	
Hyderabad	4	10	57	105	124	
Kolkata	8	121	42	247	131	
Lucknow	14	29	52	114	132	
Mumbai	4	29	40	49	104	
Pune	7	75	51	278	175	
Visakhapatnam	6	80	24	110	142	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-07-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF 100 BEDED RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BARRACKS AT VISAKHAPATNAM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / HEADQUARTERS / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 3,63,92,967.24, EMD: ₹ 3,32,000.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-08-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-09-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-10-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-11-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-12-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-13-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-14-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-15-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-16-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-17-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-18-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-19-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-20-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-21-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-22-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-23-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-24-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-25-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-26-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-27-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-28-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-29-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-30-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-31-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-32-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-33-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-34-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-35-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-36-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-37-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-38-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-39-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-40-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-41-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-42-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-43-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-44-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-45-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04, EMD: ₹ 2,30,900.00.

(1) Notice No. eT-HQ-WAT-46-2026, Dt.: 14.02.2026

NAME OF THE WORK :
CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE BUILDING AT MARRIALEM IN THE SECTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / WORKS / MUKTAPURAM / WALT AIR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / ESTATE/WALT AIR.

Approx. Cost of the Work :
₹ 1,61,84,863.04



Privacy, transparency

There must be no information asymmetry between state and citizens

In Monday, the Supreme Court of India referred a series of petitions challenging the amendment to Section 8(1)(j) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act by Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, to a Constitution Bench, recognising its “constitutional sensitivity”. The Chief Justice of India even remarked that the Court might “have to lay down what is meant by ‘personal information’”. The RTI Act, 2005 was enacted to create an informed citizenry and ensure state accountability, which is vital for a democracy. Over two decades later, the DPDP Act has delivered a body blow by diluting one of its foundational sections. Section 8(1)(j) originally allowed the withholding of personal information only if it had no relationship to any public activity or interest, or if its disclosure resulted in an unwarranted invasion of privacy. Crucially, the section included a “public interest override” as an integral feature of the 2005 Act, permitting disclosure if a Public Information Officer was satisfied that the larger public interest justified it. The DPDP amendment removes this override and prohibits the disclosure of “any information which relates to personal information”, amounting to a blanket ban. This enables rejecting requests concerning officials, procurement records, audit reports or public spending. In its campaign for the RTI, the Internet Freedom Foundation has highlighted a “legitimate uses” paradox here: while Section 7 of the DPDP Act allows the state to process personal data without consent, the RTI amendment prevents citizens from using similar principles to seek transparency from the state. Thus, while the government can monitor the citizen, the citizen is denied the ability to scrutinise the government.

This amendment also creates a severe “chilling effect” on the press. As argued in one of the writ petitions by The Reporters’ Collective, journalists could be classified as “data fiduciaries” under the DPDP Act and its Rules when collecting information for investigative reports. Non-compliance with the Act can attract fines up to ₹250 crore. Such a legal framework threatens reducing journalism to just publishing government releases. It is ironic that the DPDP Act provides exemptions to startups but omits similar protections for journalism. This is in sharp contrast with the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which balances privacy and transparency to ensure accountability. The Constitution Bench must refer to the judgment, *Central Public Information Officer (2019)*, which held that personal information should remain private unless disclosure is necessary for the larger public interest. It is known that the RTI has significantly reduced state-citizen (this includes the poor) information asymmetry over two decades. Ensuring its survival is essential for a responsive government.

Flight overreach

Disruptive behaviour must not be confused with airing of grievances

A disturbing phenomenon in aviation is unruly passenger behaviour. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has pointed out that in 2023, there was one incident for every 480 flights, from one for every 568 flights in 2022. In India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is proposing to amend rules such that airlines can directly impose a flying ban of up to 30 days without referring the matter to the competent authority. The DGCA has broadened the concept of unruly behaviour too with six new categories: smoking on board, consumption of alcohol on domestic flights, tampering with emergency exits, unauthorised use of life-saving equipment such as life jackets, engaging in protests or sloganeering, and unruly conduct arising from intoxication. Currently, airlines must report disruptive passengers to an independent committee, headed by a retired district and sessions judge, which will decide within 45 days whether to add them to the official no-fly list. Unruly behaviour would now be monitored by airlines from the check-in counter although the focus is on the flight since such behaviour can impact passenger safety and comfort.

It would seem tolerance levels are dipping with several incidents such as attempts to open emergency exits and accessing lifesaving equipment without reason. Reports also cite passengers abusing crew and fellow travellers, and the loud chanting of prayers and bhajans. The amendments seek to empower airlines and cabin crew act immediately, unlike before, when such behaviour was overshadowed by lengthy No-Fly List procedures that focused on more serious issues such as national security. Whether the proposed changes would lead to high-handedness and offset the balance of power between passengers and airline staff is a moot point. Aviation experts stress that the cabin crew’s primary role is for flight safety. However, a credible argument against the proposed amendments would cite the IndiGo fiasco where the airline’s response to pilot deployment rules was found to be influenced by revenue considerations, leading to much anger among passengers. It would seem that the amendments would empower airlines against “unruly” behaviour arising from legitimate anger over unfair practices too. So, while the amendments may be necessary in the overall interest of flight safety and a smooth passenger experience, they should not serve other purposes such as deflecting passenger grievances. One safeguard would be to make a distinction between “unruly” behaviour on the ground versus disruptive behaviour during flight. Safeguards are needed to allow redress against airline overreach.

The release of documents from the Epstein files has done more than expose the depravity of one man. The documents illuminate the dark truths of a new model of “bonding” between political power, corporates, financial institutions, the wealthy and the influential. Structural class-based bonding is hardly new, nor are criminality and impunity treated as entitlement. But the files show how deep the rot is – the elimination of even the semblance of morality as a reference point in systems devoted to private profit.

Jeffrey Epstein was a paedophile and convicted sex offender, among his many other “qualifications”. One would have thought that in any civilised society, such a man would be punished and socially isolated. But in America – a country that seeks to preach democracy to the world – it was precisely these attributes that enabled him to innovate a globalised model of developing business relations that included the sexual exploitation of young women and children. Rich white men in America, Presidents and former Presidents, bankers in Russia and Europe, sheikhs in West Asia, and links in India are all named in the files. It is not that all those named necessarily participated in “bonding” based on sexual criminality. The services offered by Epstein were many and varied, not all sexual. Their crime is that, being in positions of power, their closeness to Epstein normalised his model of bonding.

Complicity and depravity

For many of those named, it involved shared experiences in spaces where minors were trafficked and abused. Participation created mutual dependency, the glue of which was secrecy and complicity. Even a cursory reading of the mail exchanges now flooding the Internet shows the striking intertwining of coded language for sexual depravity with references to business deals, financial transactions, with banks ignoring warning signals, and the gaining of access to political and financial contacts – with Epstein as broker and facilitator. The sexual use of women and children was transactional – building blocks for networks, profit and power. The Epstein files open a window into the ethically bankrupt operations of capitalism.

There may be degrees of culpability. Legal frameworks differentiate between direct participation in crime and abetment. Abetment too has degrees. But for anyone who engaged with Epstein after 2008, a defence based on lack of knowledge simply does not hold. The first complaints against him were made in 2005, when



Brinda Karat

is a senior leader of the CPI(M)

a mother in Palm Beach, Florida, U.S., filed a complaint that he had abused her 14-year-old daughter. Police investigations identified at least a dozen more victims. Instead of decisive action, the Federal government under President Bush accepted a sweetheart non-prosecution deal pushed by Epstein’s powerful lawyers. Epstein pleaded guilty to lesser charges of “soliciting a prostitute and a minor” and received a sentence of 13 months, during which he was allowed to leave jail daily to attend his office and return at night. Successive governments, regardless of party, ignored the voices of victims. Epstein continued his activities with impunity.

It was only because of the courage and sustained struggle of the survivors that in July 2019, Epstein was arrested on charges not covered by the 2008 agreement. He died, reportedly by suicide, in August before trial. The emails and documents now released, dating from around 2002 to 2019, provide evidence of those involved. Yet, by redacting names, the Department of Justice under U.S. President Donald Trump has protected the identities of powerful men. Survivors have repeatedly stated that the Trump administration mounted one of the biggest cover-ups in history.

The India angle

It is for the American people to address their institutions. From India, we extend solidarity to the courageous survivors demanding justice and accountability.

But it does not end there.

Two Indian names have surfaced in the mails. The first is industrialist Anil Ambani, known to be close to the leadership of the ruling regime, as evidenced by the official recommendation to have him as the Indian partner in the Rafale deal. The second is Hardeep Puri.

The correspondence between Mr. Ambani and Epstein reflects familiarity and sexualised, demeaning language regarding women. The more consequential exchange concerns political access. Ahead of a proposed visit by India’s Prime Minister to Washington, Mr. Ambani wrote: “Leadership would like ur help for me to meet Jared (Mr. Trump’s son-in-law) and Bannon asap... likely visit to DC by PM in May to meet Donald... Also assistance on that.”

Mr. Ambani represented himself as acting in relation to a prime ministerial visit and sought Epstein’s help to arrange meetings with senior U.S. political figures. If authentic – and they have not been denied as fabricated – these emails raise serious governance questions. Why was an Indian businessman invoking “Leadership” in

India cannot ignore some of the implications of the Epstein connections

Tehran reenters the global geopolitical spotlight

In late 2013, the White House in Washington DC – then under President Barack Obama – embarked on a multi-national, complicated, and ambitious journey to negotiate with Iran to curtail its nuclear programme. The United States, along with some of its allies, particularly Israel, was at a level convinced that Tehran had set out to develop a nuclear weapons programme. The negotiations, which involved a consortium of United Nations Security Council Members along with Germany, collectively known as the P5+1, managed to reach an agreement in 2015 called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The aim was to install guardrails around the Shia power’s nuclear activities, which its then President Hassan Rouhani and the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei maintained, was only for civil use.

The Trump years

In 2018, as the first presidency of Donald Trump began, the U.S. exited the agreement leaving not just Iran but also its allies in Europe in the lurch. Russia and China, technically allies for Iran, but not wanting a nuclearised West Asia, were also left stumped. Mr. Trump had long advocated that the JCPOA was farcical and negotiated in a way which did not secure American interests. Fast forward to 2025. Now, in Mr. Trump’s second run as President, the U.S., with Israel, bombed Iran’s nuclear and air defence sites followed by a narrative that the country’s capacities to pursue such weapons lied in tatters.

However, a few months following the attacks, Mr. Trump is now chasing a deal through diplomacy, in a very similar manner as Mr. Obama did and succeeded, albeit not a perfect one. Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who, in a speech at the United Nations in 2012, had shown a drawing depicting the various stages



Kabir Taneja

is Executive Director of the Observer Research Foundation Middle East

at which Iran’s nuclear programme had progressed, kept stopping Tehran as a non-negotiable security aim. With Mr. Obama, and even President Joe Biden later, Mr. Netanyahu had limited success. But with Mr. Trump, it was an opportunity as the Israeli leader managed to market his state’s celebrated intelligence apparatus’s assessment that Iran was racing towards nuclear weapons. While the U.S.’s assessments differed, Mr. Netanyahu’s whisperings in Mr. Trump’s ear won the battle.

Now, in 2026, even as the U.S. moves notable military capacity in the region while simultaneously holding talks with Iran, hosted by long-time mediator Oman, Mr. Trump seemingly wants his own JCPOA. The language from the White House today resembles that of the pre-Obama era. “... I insisted that negotiations with Iran continue to see whether or not a deal can be consummated,” he said. “If it can, I let the Prime Minister know that will be a preference. If it cannot, we will just have to see what the outcome will be,” Mr. Trump said while meeting Mr. Netanyahu, who, once again, had to rush to the White House as U.S. interlocutors met their Iranian counterparts in Muscat.

No escalation is what the Arab powers want

Arab powers of the Gulf, who over the past year or two have committed hundreds of billions of dollars of investment towards Mr. Trump, despite their own troubles with Tehran, do not want to see military escalation. And it is not just them. Others across the world would rather see talks succeed than fail, avoiding pushing the region into another conflict which could run for years should it spread. Iran has made no bones that it retains the kinetic capacity to strike back – a claim that is increasingly being taken seriously by analysts and officials alike. Further threats from

Iran returns to haunt the United States and West Asia alike

communications with a convicted sex offender? Was he authorised to speak in this manner? Is there any inquiry about these claims?

India’s Ministry of External Affairs dismissed references to the Prime Minister in these emails as “trashy ruminations of a convicted criminal”. But the issue is not Epstein’s credibility. It is Mr. Ambani’s words. Why has no action been taken against him? Or is it because he was indeed acting on behalf of the government? The government must answer.

Mr. Puri is now a Union Minister in the Narendra Modi government. The Government strained every nerve to shield him in Parliament, shutting down discussion of the Epstein files. In a press conference, Mr. Puri claimed lack of knowledge of Epstein’s activities to justify his mails dating from 2014. Apart from evidence that he met Epstein several times, consider this exchange: “Dear Jeff, seasons greetings. Please let me know when you are back from your exotic island. I would like to come across for a chat...”

And later: “Give me a shout when you are back. And, have fun. Not that you require encouragement from others for that.”

Does this signify ignorance?

A questionable defence

In the same press conference, Mr. Puri trivialised Epstein’s crimes, stating: “He was convicted for soliciting a prostitute and a woman who was underage. And that’s it.” Really, Mr. Puri? A woman who was underage? Do you mean a child? And for you that is not reason enough to shun association?

He went further, recounting that “a lady MP” told him others were jealous, to which he replied that if something had happened he would speak. Who was this lady Member of Parliament, party to such misogyny which passes as humour? What does it say about the standards of our Members of Parliament? By his own words, for the Minister, participation in acts on an “exotic island”, the notorious site of sexual exploitation, is framed as something to be jealous of. His defence is that he had not done anything to excite such jealousy. These are not semantic slips. They are an example of how rape cultures are strengthened.

It brings disgrace to India to have a Cabinet Minister who willfully maintained contact with a convicted sex offender and then defends that association. Does his continuation in office signify approval from the Prime Minister?

Parliament was not allowed to discuss the Epstein files. There is no such prohibition on the people of India.

Tehran that any strikes this time will be met by retaliation targeting U.S. military facilities in the region, largely situated in the Gulf states, have led to anxieties peaking. The stress is not coming from Iran’s intentions, but more from an inability to predict or influence Mr. Trump’s thinking.

The stakes for India

The Iran file coming back as a point of geopolitical friction, at a moment when the world identifies more as a disordered than an ordered one, poses renewed challenges for many. India, for example, was a supporter of the erstwhile JCPOA process. In fact, New Delhi had highlighted to its peers in Tehran the perks of such an agreement, such as ease of sanctions and a return of oil trade. Iran was at a point one of the top two oil suppliers for India, only to lose out as U.S. pressure peaked. JCPOA was seen as the way out. But even as focus usually comes down to oil, or the Chabahar Port, a long-standing Indian connectivity investment, Tehran remains an important political player – for its fractious relationship with Pakistan, its practicality with the Taliban in Afghanistan, and its posturing in Central Asia *vis-à-vis* Turkish and Pakistani influences. Iran offers much for India than just its West Asia policies.

Finally, Iran also stands at a crossroads. Internal protests have been consistent, gnawing into the state’s political stability. The “moderates”, once powerful, have had to align with their conservative peers to build a nationalists narrative following the U.S. bombings. Domestic power plays, much like before, will heavily impact external outcomes. Any success of these talks will be a better option moving forward than the alternatives being presented by the largest American military build-up in the region since 2003.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The biting truth

The recent ‘Robdog’ controversy at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 is not the real issue; it is a symptom of a deeper crisis in India’s higher education system. Over the past two decades, rapid expansion, especially in private institutions, has increased access but weakened academic rigour and accountability. Quantity has grown, but quality has declined. The problem is what India’s universities have gradually become. Many colleges now function more as centres of degree distribution than centres of

learning. Education has become transactional, with attendance, laboratory work, and intellectual discipline often diluted. This is especially troubling in science and professional fields, where competence is essential. Higher education in India is overseen by a number of ministries, departments, and regulatory bodies whose stated purpose is to safeguard standards, ensure quality, and maintain academic integrity. Accreditation systems, inspections, evaluations, and academic audits were created for this purpose.

However, in practice, these processes often remain formalities. The consequences are visible in rising unemployment among the educated. Industry reports a shortage of skilled graduates, while students struggle despite holding degrees. Regulatory systems, focused more on paperwork than outcomes, allow this cycle to continue. Higher education must restore its core purpose: developing knowledge, skills, and critical thinking – not merely issuing certificates.

Priyanka Saurabh,
Hisar, Haryana

Help Imran Khan

The Pakistan government must heed the appeal of 14 former cricket captains, to ensure proper medical care for jailed former Prime Minister and 1992 World Cup winning captain Imran Khan – an appeal grounded in basic humanity. His eyesight must be protected at all costs. Pakistan must not succumb to the kind of political blindness that now haunts many nations.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

School attire

While respecting Tamil

Nadu’s uniform policy during Higher Secondary school hours, and acknowledging that the State does not follow the junior college system, I urge the government to consider permitting formal coloured attire exclusively during Higher Secondary board examinations. States such as Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, despite having junior colleges and prescribed dress codes, allow coloured attire during HSC public examinations. This approach fosters a sense of maturity, confidence, and responsibility among

students at a crucial academic milestone. Examination integrity would remain uncompromised, as hall tickets and frisking procedures already ensure discipline and transparency. Such a limited and carefully considered reform would create a more dignified examination environment while aligning Tamil Nadu with progressive national practices – without altering its established school structure.

Vivek M. Jain,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Does football suffer because of cricket?



Abhik Chatterjee
CEO of ISL club, Kerala Blasters



Yannick Colaco
Co-founder of FanCode, the media rights partner of ISL

PARLEY

Last weekend, the Indian Super League (ISL), the highest league in Indian football, kicked off after months of uncertainty. The disruption, which compelled some clubs to halt their operations and consigned the players and coaches to a state of desperation, emanated from the absence of a commercial partner for the league once the Master Rights Agreement between the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) expired in December. The Indian football team, which is 141st in the FIFA rankings, failed to even qualify for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup after a loss to Singapore last October. The contrast with cricket in India could not be starker. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is the richest and most powerful cricket board in the world right now, and India's cricketers enjoy demigod status across the length and breadth of the country. Does football suffer because of cricket? Abhik Chatterjee and Yannick Colaco discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Vivek Krishnan. Edited excerpts:

Is cricket's overwhelming sway responsible for impeding football in India?

Abhik Chatterjee: Cricket is the primary sport in India. There is a huge appetite for it. However, I would say that football is a second favourite. I feel cricket has heroes, which is why people consume it more. There are so many people who aspire to get into the sport because India is able to perform at the highest level.

Football has many fans who consume the Premier League, La Liga, World Cup, Champions League, etc. But I feel that for it to explode, India needs to do well on the international stage. If we have players going and play outside India, that is when aspirations will go up and chatter around the sport will increase. The ISL obviously has played its part in giving the sport more eyeballs and in making clubs more professional. But there are improvements to be made. We need to take a few quantum jumps before we are able to compete with at least the top leagues in Asia.

Yannick Colaco: I do agree that football is the clear number 2 sport in India. Research shows there are close to 305 million football fans in the country now. When we think about sports as an opportunity, I don't think we can say cricket is so dominant that there is no space for other sports. I mean, just the fact that there are 305 million football fans is proof of that – that is more than the population of some countries in the world. The opportunity for football to grow



Bengaluru Football Club's Sunil Chhetri scores a goal during the Indian Super League football match between Bengaluru Football Club and Sporting Club Delhi, in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

in this country is immense. We are just scratching the surface.

The Indian cricket team is among the best in the world right now. But the Indian football team continues to plummet in FIFA rankings. How big a factor is the performance of the respective teams?

YC: The performance of the Indian team is extremely important. I think that essentially just creates better sentiment. Anything that can create positivity around a sport is a good thing. But I don't think it is the only thing. Even in cricket, if you look back some years, India was not consistently winning global tournaments, but cricket was still an extremely popular sport. Building the fandom that has already been developed around football and recounting the stories of footballers are essentially how we can actually move beyond performance of the Indian team.

AC: There are multiple factors. There needs to be a concentrated effort across the board. All the stakeholders, whether it is the clubs, federation, or broadcaster, need to come together. There is a way to convey why football is what it is, and why people love the sport. For all of this to happen, there are foundations to be put in place right at the bottom and then developed gradually all the way up to the top. It needs to be a systemic change, and it needs to also be something that is sustainable in the long term.

When the ISL, which was modelled along the lines of the Indian Premier League in cricket, began in 2014, there was a lot of optimism. People believed that this was a new dawn for



Football has to be looked at in a singular manner, in its own ecosystem, and within its own set of challenges. If you do want to compare, you should compare India to neighbouring countries in the Asian Football Confederation that we have to catch up with or match.

ABHIK CHATTERJEE

Indian football. Do you feel that opportunity has been squandered?

YC: People are attracted towards the concept of a silver bullet. They think one move is suddenly going to change everything in a consumer product. It does not work that way. When the ISL was set up, it was a very positive move. The ISL has close to 150 million fans across the country. I think there is still optimism around the game of football.

AC: Nothing is wasted. The ISL has paved the way for people to start watching a professionally marketed domestic football league that from the beginning featured players from around the world. As an administrator, I have seen change. We have had some top foreign coaches come into the league over the last decade. Indian coaches have obviously benefited from working with them. They have learned how to upgrade themselves. Some of them have gone on to become head coaches in their own right. This is just a small example of how the ISL has contributed to the Indian football ecosystem. There are many positives. We have to pause for a moment and be grateful for those. But there are also aspects that we can improve on as we go forward.

When the ISL media rights were sold earlier this month, there were comparisons with the valuation of the IPL media rights. Joy Bhattacharjya said if India is to take itself seriously as a sporting nation, the bizarrely skewed ratio has to come down. What are your thoughts?

YC: In today's social media world, putting out numbers without context has become a norm. The situation is a lot more complex. The media rights value is definitely not a reflection of the state of a sport in our country. You should be looking at following, viewership, attendance, and much more to judge a sport. The focus of everyone in the football ecosystem should not be about how much cricket makes. Monetisation will happen. But if you focus only on that, then

you won't concentrate on the most important aspect of football, which is essentially how our fan base is growing.

In terms of governance, cricket seems to largely have its house in order. In football, the administration has been riddled with controversies. How detrimental has that been?

AC: There are multiple issues that Indian football has gone through in the past year. It would be foolish to deny that. It is out in the open. But there is an opportunity to move in a new direction. The clubs have come together, which is refreshing to see. I speak more with my colleagues than I ever have in the last 14 years. Everybody has taken joint ownership of the product. Everybody is hands-on in taking decisions across the board, whether it comes to governance, broadcast, marketing, or sponsorships. That approach has stemmed from the challenges faced over the past few months.

Cricket has also had issues when it comes to administration, but through India doing well at the international stage and with strong leadership, it has settled into what it is today. The ISL is still in a growing phase, but everybody is committed to moving forward and working together to solve issues.

How optimistic are you of India widening its sporting footprint, and cricket and football thriving together? Or will football always be a distant number 2 sport?

YC: The sporting footprint is already widening in terms of participation. There is no one-year, two-year solution. We need to think of this and plan for the next five or 10 years. You keep building milestones in that space. But I don't think anyone should look at football suddenly becoming 10 times its size in a year or two years. You have to build this patiently, in the right way.

AC: Football has to be looked at in a singular manner, in its own ecosystem, and within its own set of challenges. If you do want to compare, you should compare India to neighbouring countries in the Asian Football Confederation that we have to catch up with or match. That is a more valid comparison. You look at the likes of Australia, Thailand, Hong Kong. Those are more interesting discussions that need to happen.



To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

In Manipur, justice remains elusive even after death

The harrowing story of an 18-year-old woman who was deprived of a future

Alisha Dutta

In 2023, during the peak of the ethnic conflict in Manipur, I visited a government school in Kangpokpi, where classrooms had been turned into a shelter for displaced people. An 18-year-old woman sat on the floor. Her hands were marked with bruises from the IV drips, as well as from injuries she had sustained when members of Arambai Tenggol – a radical Meitei group – allegedly abducted her from Imphal and drove her to Wangkhei Ayangpeli. In that Meitei-dominated area, she was assaulted and raped for hours.

When I sat down to speak with her, I carried the same questions in my notepad as every other reporter who had come to interview her. When she spoke to me, her voice was not louder than a whisper. I could not muster the courage to look into her eyes. While the job of a reporter in such a situation is to write about the human costs of the conflict, the guilt of asking people to relive their ordeal weighed heavily on me.

That evening, when I returned to my hotel in Churachandpur, I barely had an appetite. Over the next couple of days, though I spoke to many women who had gone through similar ordeals, I struggled to get past the trauma of the 18-year-old woman. I left Manipur after a couple of weeks, the image of her frail body against the blazing sun imprinted in my mind.

Over the next two years, though I would call her family intermittently to check on her health, I barely got the chance to talk to the woman again. Her younger sister would occasionally answer my calls to say she was doing better, but most months, the woman struggled even to get out of bed. Despite knowing that both her physical and mental health had not improved, her family always sounded hopeful. With time, I moved on to other stories.

In January this year, when I was sitting with friends in Delhi, I saw a news flash that said one of the women who had

been raped and assaulted during the first 2023 ethnic clash in Manipur had succumbed to her injuries. I tried to identify her. Over the next few hours, the Internet was full of articles about this tragedy. I kept hoping that my unanswered calls to her family did not necessarily mean that the news was right.

A day later, her father picked up my call to convey the message. Sitting in front of my laptop that day, I felt numb. Did our reports even matter, I wondered. What came of them? A young woman had succumbed to her injuries while endlessly awaiting justice, even as more and more stories of violence and clashes kept coming in from the State.

In the past, whenever her father had asked me when the woman would receive justice, I never had an answer. Sometimes, I would tell him that the authorities would identify the rapists soon; at others, I would just listen to his angry outbursts. Despite several promises of fast-tracking all the cases of rape that took place in Manipur in 2023, the Central Bureau of Investigation is yet to arrest a single person or file a charge sheet in her matter. Meanwhile, the Home Ministry continues to paint a picture of normalcy in the State.

Days after I learned that she had died, I stood outside the Kartavya Path in Delhi, speaking to groups from various States who had performed at the Republic Day parade. I met a young woman from Manipur. She was also 18 and had just started college. As she gushed about the opportunity she had received to perform in front of the Prime Minister and foreign dignitaries, she reminisced about the past, when her days were not marred by violence. When she spoke about her hope for a peaceful future in her town, I struggled not to think about the 18-year-old woman I had met in 2023, who had been deprived of a future. Facing the college-going Manipuri dancer, I wished fervently that her dreams would come true.

alisha.d@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

The herd and the moon



A small herd of Nilgiri Tahr grazing on the grasslands of the Nilgiris beneath a fading morning moon. The Nilgiri Tahr, an endangered mountain goat endemic to the southern Western Ghats, was once found across the entire range but now survives only in fragmented pockets. Its population is under severe stress due to habitat loss. The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has initiated measures to protect the species. SATHYAMOORTHY M.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The ~~INDIA~~ Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 20, 1976

Campaign against foes of cultural revolution

Peking, Feb. 19: Wall posters appearing in Shanghai have denounced an unidentified "Khrushchev number two" who, it was alleged, opposed Chairman Mao Tse-tung's principle that the communist party should exercise control over the armed forces.

Visitors from Shanghai in the last few days have reported a campaign in China's leading industrial centre against capitalist "roaders". The signal for the start of the campaign was the publication of the article on February 6 in the People's Daily, the party's official organ,

which had denounced leaders taking the "capitalist road."

The article, observers said, has assumed the importance of a political directive. It has already been published in pamphlet form and distributed.

'Eliminate them'

In a long front page article on Wednesday, the People's Daily, indicated that "capitalist roader" party leaders should be removed from power just like former President Liu Shao-chi and Lin Biao. It mentioned Kao Kang, a leader accused of conspiring against the party in 1954, the "anti-party" clique headed by Peng Teh-huai at the time of the "great leap forward" in 1958, another "anti-party clique" led by Liu Shan-chi during the cultural revolution, and finally Lin Biao who attempted a "counter-revolutionary coup d'etat.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 20, 1926

India in commons

London, Feb. 10: In the Commons, replying to Mr. Scurr, Earl Winterton said the question of the publication of the report of enquiry into the conditions of Indian labour in Fiji had not yet been finally decided. Mr. Scurr asked why copies of Mr. Lansbury's *Labour Weekly* were confiscated in India and not allowed to be delivered to the addresses. Earl Winterton was not aware that they were confiscated, but promised to enquire if Mr. Scurr thought they were. He added that the enquiry did not involve any undertaking by the Secretary of State to interfere with the discretion of the Government of India or of any Provincial Government.

From Page One

SIR in 22 States and U.T.s expected from April: EC

Bihar was the first State to undergo the SIR process last year, just before its Assembly election.

Following this, on October 27, 2025, the poll body ordered the second phase of the SIR in 12 States and U.T.s, which is under way now. These States are Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan. The SIR process in these States has seen multiple extensions, with Uttar Pradesh getting the most extra time to complete the exercise.

Assam exception

In Assam, a special revision was conducted instead of SIR, due to legal hurdles posed by an incomplete National Register of Citizens process in the State.

After announcing last June that the SIR would be conducted in all States and U.T.s, the EC had, in a letter dated July 5, 2025, asked all States to initiate the pre-revision exercise for the SIR.

India sees future, not fear, in AI, says PM

The Prime Minister said the way forward was MANAV, an acronym that emphasises moral and ethical systems; accountable governance of AI models; national sovereignty over data; accessible and inclusive means; and valid and legitimate uses of AI.

"Every few centuries in human history, there comes a turning point, and that turning point resets the direction of civilisation, and from there the pace of development changes, the paradigms of thinking, understanding and working change," Mr. Modi said. "And the interesting thing is that when we are in that phase of transformation, then we do not even know its real impact."

Multiple languages

For the first time, Mr. Modi's speech was live-streamed in seven Indian languages as well as English using AI. In the past, Mr. Modi has used real-time machine translation for his speech at the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, though this was limited to the venue itself and enabled by BHASHINI, the IT Ministry's translation initiative.

Ex-Duke Andrew held over ties with Epstein

The alleged sharing of documents is just one of several ways in which Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor's name has surfaced in connection with Epstein. In 2021, an American woman, Virginia Giuffre, said that Epstein and his former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell had allegedly trafficked her to Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor for sex when she was 17. Giuffre died by suicide in April 2025. In 2022, the former prince, who has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing, reached an out-of-court settlement with her.

A photograph of a man who appeared to be Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor, kneeling on all fours over a fully clothed woman lying on the carpet, was among the images released on January 30, 2026, by the U.S. authorities.

Payment link

The tranche of documents also suggested a possible payment from Epstein to Peter Mandelson, former U.K. envoy to Washington, who resigned in November over his friendship with Epstein. The revelations also led to Mr. Mandelson's resignation from the Labour Party earlier this month and calls for Mr. Starmer to step down.

For the royals, as fresh revelations around his links with Epstein emerged, Mr. Mountbatten-Windsor was stripped of his titles in October 2025 and asked to leave the Royal Lodge, his official residence in Windsor. He recently moved into Wood Farm, on the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk, which is privately owned by King Charles.

The British press reported that police cars arrived at the estate around 6 a.m. on Thursday, with the police releasing a statement around 10 a.m.

"We have today arrested a man in his sixties from Norfolk on suspicion of misconduct in public office and are carrying out searches at addresses in Berkshire and Norfolk," the Thames Valley Police said in a statement, adding that they were not naming the individual as per national guidance, when people are normally only named when charged.

Searches were also going on at Royal Lodge, where the former prince lived until earlier this month. It was unclear where the suspect was being questioned.

'Full and fair process'

The King called for a "full, fair and proper process" and offered his "whole hearted support and co-operation", as per a statement released by Buckingham Palace.

"Let me state clearly: the law must take its course," he said, adding it would not be appropriate to comment further at this point in time.

The family of Giuffre also reacted to the news via a statement.

"At last today our broken hearts have been lifted at the news that no one is above the law, not even royalty," they said, thanking the Thames Valley Police and adding, "He was never a prince. For survivors everywhere, Virginia did this for you."

SC slams unchecked freebies, questions 'appeasement'

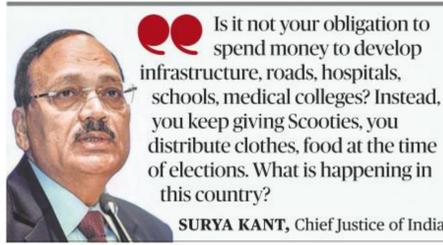
Top court says States must prioritise welfare and development over largesse; asks if they have a tested mechanism to distribute welfare effectively to those who actually need a 'helping hand'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday chastised State governments for distributing freebies indiscriminately without even distinguishing between the haves and the have-nots, questioning whether they are following an "appeasement" policy without a thought for the public exchequer ahead of elections.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, said States, even those that are revenue-surplus, must prioritise welfare and development over irrational largesse. Despite running on deficit, the Chief Justice said, States seemed to still have money to randomly splurge on largesse. The court asked whether States had a tested mechanism to distribute welfare effectively, to those who actually need a "helping hand".

"Is it not your obligation to spend money to develop



Is it not your obligation to spend money to develop infrastructure, roads, hospitals, schools, medical colleges? Instead, you keep giving Scooties, you distribute clothes, food at the time of elections. What is happening in this country?

SURYA KANT, Chief Justice of India

infrastructure, roads, hospitals, schools, medical colleges? Instead, you keep giving Scooties, you distribute clothes, food at the time of elections. What is happening in this country," the Chief Justice asked.

The court said largesse was distributed in such a way that the most affluent get them first.

"It is understandable that some people cannot afford, the State has to provide. There are children who cannot afford education. You must provide. It is their fundamental right. There are many bright children who cannot afford higher education. It is the

state's duty to extend a helping hand to them. That is welcome. But for people who do not deserve, those who are affluent, why give them freebies? Why do freebies come to their pockets first? Is it not high time for the States to revisit these policies," Chief Justice Kant asked.

The Bench, including Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi, was hearing a writ petition filed by Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDC), represented by senior advocates Gopal Subramaniam and P. Wilson, challenging the constitutional validity of

Rule 23 of the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2024.

Mr. Subramaniam said the gap in revenue from electricity and expenditure has expanded over the years. In Tamil Nadu, the gap has touched ₹50,000-odd crore annually, which the government was absorbing.

The senior counsel said Rule 23 would financially stretch the State government to such an extent that it would have to pass on the tariff burden to the consumers.

"The Rule, if implemented, would result in an exponential tariff shock, adversely affecting electricity consumers and placing an unsustainable burden on the public exchequer," the TNPDC petition submitted.

The Chief Justice asked why the State's policy did not allow the government to generate profits from the power sector by making the affluent sections pay for the electricity they consume.

Mamata Banerjee's 'barging' into I-PAC raids site a 'blatant abuse' of power, ED tells SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) launched an all-out attack against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the Supreme Court for her "gross and blatant abuse" of power by "illegally barging" into the site of ongoing raids at the offices of political consultancy firm I-PAC on January 8 with senior police officers in tow.

The ED has sought an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against Ms. Banerjee and senior police officers for carrying away electronic devices and material considered as evidence in a ₹2,742-crore coal smuggling case and associated money-laundering charges.



The ED denies Mamata Banerjee's claim that material seized by her only had confidential information of the Trinamool. FILE PHOTO

The State of West Bengal and Ms. Banerjee argued that the raids were conducted without permission from the State Police, and were designed to take away confidential material concerning the ruling Trinamool Congress, which consults with I-PAC and its founder Pratik Jain, whose

residences were searched by the Central agency.

The ED, however, rejected the State's counter that the CM and the police contingent had intervened to prevent "armed persons impersonating officials of Central agencies" from conducting an unauthorised search. ED officials

had duly displayed their ID cards and search authorization to the police officers, the Central agency submitted in its rejoinder.

The ED said the police allowed the Chief Minister, in fact, escorted her into the premises where an active search was going on and forcibly retrieved incriminating material.

"Individuals took away documents collected and indexed by the ED officers. The back-up process for the computer and email dump was also stopped midway. Ms. Banerjee, assisted by the State police officers, forcibly took away the computer installed in the premises. The State police on the instructions of Ms. Banerjee forcibly took away the mobile phones of the employees of M/s Indian PAC Consult-

Congress accuses Centre of censoring AI-generated satire

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Accusing the Centre of censoring political satire created using artificial intelligence, the Congress on Thursday claimed that nine AI-generated videos produced by the party had been taken down in the past six weeks at the government's instance.

Addressing a press conference, Congress leader Supriya Shrinete said that even as the government was projecting itself as a champion of artificial intelligence, it was "strangling India's AI potential" through content takedowns.

"In the last six weeks, nine videos created by the Congress using AI have been forcefully deleted by the Prime Minister, his central government, and BJP-ruled States," Ms. Shrinete said, adding that all the videos carried a visible disclaimer reading "AI generated video" throughout their duration and were meant as political satire.

"These videos show how cowardly Prime Minis-

Nine videos created by Congress using AI were deleted by the government, says Supriya Shrinete

ter Modi turned his back on his responsibility by telling General Naravane and the Army... How Modi compromised India's national interest while pursuing a trade deal with America," Ms. Shrinete said.

Deletion orders were issued by police authorities in BJP-ruled States such as Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra, as well as by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), she claimed, citing Sections 69A and 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

She alleged that the provisions were being "blatantly misused" against political opponents. "At least tell us what was illegal in these videos. This is how authoritarian regimes work by giving secret orders to take down content," she alleged.

PM 'insensitive' to great figures of Bengal: CM

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday took strong exception to a social media post by Prime Minister Narendra Modi referring to Ramakrishna Paramahansa as 'Swami'. In a post on 'X', Mr. Modi offered tributes to the spiritual master on his birth anniversary and addressed him as 'Swami Ramakrishna'.

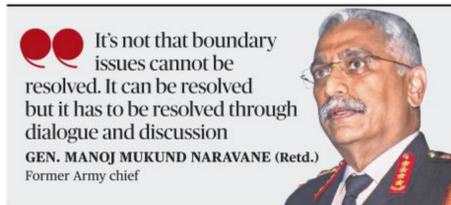
"Yet again, our Prime Minister aggressively displays his cultural insensitivity to great figures of Bengal. Today is the janmattithi of Yugavata Sri Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsadeva... While trying to hail the great saint on this occasion, our PM added an unprecedented and improper prefix to the great saint's name, 'Swami', she posted.

Unresolved India-China boundary is affecting ties, says General Naravane

Kallol Bhattacharjee
DIBRUGARH

The "unresolved" nature of the India-China "boundary" is at the heart of bilateral problems, said former Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane (retd.). Speaking on his newly published novel *The Cantonment Conspiracy: A Military Thriller* at the Dibrugarh University International Literature Festival (DUILF) on Thursday, the former chief of the Indian Army said that the India-China boundary remains "nebulous" and India has always emphasised that it will not tolerate "unilateral use of force" by China.

"China is a very important neighbour of ours with whom we have had a troubled relationship. We have to understand that the trouble that we are having is because of the unresolved nature of the boundary between the two countries," said General



It's not that boundary issues cannot be resolved. It can be resolved but it has to be resolved through dialogue and discussion
GEN. MANOJ MUKUND NARAVANE (Retd.)
Former Army chief

Naravane, while pointing out that he is using the term 'boundary' with extra emphasis as 'boundary' and 'border' cannot be used interchangeably in case of the Line of Actual Control between India and China.

Comparing the India-China boundary with the India-Bangladesh border, Mr. Naravane said: "The India-Bangladesh border is recognised by both the countries and marked on the map. The India-China border is notional."

'Genesis of problem'

"That is the genesis of the problem and that is why

from time to time when these differences of opinion [on the boundary] arise, we have clashes along various parts of this boundary..." said General Naravane, emphasising that these clashes can be avoided as there are a number of agreements between the two countries to prevent escalation of such situations.

"It's not that boundary issues cannot be resolved. It can be resolved but it has to be resolved through dialogue and discussion," said General Naravane.

(The reporter is being hosted by DUILF where he is a guest speaker)

ED summons Anil Ambani again on February 26

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has issued fresh summons to Reliance Group chairperson Anil Ambani for recording his statement on February 26, agency sources said on Thursday.

The agency had earlier summoned his wife, Tina Ambani, twice. However, she is yet to join the investigation.

In January, the ED had provisionally attached properties worth ₹1,885 crore linked to Reliance Anil Ambani Group, including bank balance, receivables, shareholding in "unquoted investments" and immovable assets, taking the total attachment to about ₹12,000 crore in the alleged bank fraud cases related to Reliance Communications Limited, Reliance Commercial Finance Limited, and Reliance Home Finance Limited.

The ED has alleged fraudulent diversion of funds by Reliance group.

Anil Ambani assures SC he has no intention to leave the country

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

ADAG Group chairman and managing director Anil Ambani has filed an affidavit assuring the Supreme Court that he has not left India since July 2025, or since the beginning of the investigation in an alleged bank fraud case. Mr. Ambani added that he had no plan or intention to travel outside the country.

He informed the court that he has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on

February 26, 2026. He undertook to appear and join the investigation on that date.

Mr. Ambani also said he would not leave the country without the prior permission of the Supreme Court.

Full cooperation

He said he would fully cooperate with the authorities, ensuring procedural clarity in the ongoing investigation to prevent any suggestion of evasion or selected presentation of facts.

APPEAL
Master Vanjuvanjula Dakshit, Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital Code No:IN724012, 4 years 10 months son of Mr. Vanjuvanjula Ramesh is suffering from Thalassemia Major and has been on Regular Blood Transfusion from 6 months of age. The only curative option for this condition is Bone Marrow Transplantation. The overall cost of the transplant would be about Rs. 15,00,000/-
Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. Save Poor Lives A/c Vanjuvanjula Dakshit, Our A/c Details: S/B A/c No. 20000913487, S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksb. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T.ACT.
SAVE POOR LIVES, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Door No.14/76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028, Ph. No. 044 42044165 / 9884607377. Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

Bill Gates withdraws from AI Impact Summit keynote address

Hours before the scheduled speech, Gates Foundation announced the decision, stating that it will ensure 'focus' on the AI Summit's key priorities; President of Gates Foundation's India and Africa offices Ankur Vohra replaced him at the summit

Sahasini Haidar
NEW DELHI



Bill Gates arrived in Andhra Pradesh on Monday as planned and met with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. REUTERS

Under a cloud over his relationship with American sex-offender and investor Jeffrey Epstein, Microsoft founder and co-chair of the Gates Foundation Bill Gates pulled out at the last minute from giving an address at the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Summit on Thursday.

Mr. Gates was scheduled to deliver a keynote address at the plenary session after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, French President Emmanuel Macron, Brazilian President Lula, and Google CEO Sundar Pichai and other chiefs of AI global majors. He was among the big names expected to attend the conference, and had been billed as one of the "global visionaries" at the event, in the conference publicity material and website.

However, after the latest tranche of files of the disgraced U.S. investor and convicted paedophile was

released by the U.S. Department of Justice on January 31, questions have emerged about whether the government will continue to host Mr. Gates, who figures prominently in the documents. Though Mr. Gates has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and expressed regret over his association with the sex-trafficking businessman, photographs and emails recovered from Epstein's computer indicate that the two men communicated frequently and travelled together. The records also

suggest that Mr. Gates consulted Epstein over fundraising strategies for his foundation.

"After careful consideration, and to ensure the focus remains on the AI Summit's key priorities, Mr. Gates will not be delivering his keynote address," a statement by the Gates Foundation issued on Thursday morning said, adding that the philanthropist remained "fully committed to our work in India to advance shared health and development goals".

This statement put to

rest days of confusion over the issue.

Even before the conference began on Monday, government departments and the Gates Foundation appeared to be conflicted over whether platforming Mr. Gates would lead to problems over the Epstein issue.

On Sunday, a day after Opposition MP Priyanka Chaturvedi appealed to the government not to allow Mr. Gates to speak at the prestigious event, the AI Impact Website dropped his entry from the list of global visionaries. However, the agenda continued to list him as a keynote speaker on Thursday.

Confusion prevails

Mr. Gates arrived in Andhra Pradesh on Monday as planned and met with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and discussed a number of projects including the Amravati city project. In Delhi on Tuesday, government sources told presspersons that AI summit organisers had a

rethink and decided Mr. Gates would be dropped from the speaker line-up. However, the Gates Foundation insisted there was no such plan, and that he would deliver the keynote as per the agenda.

To questions at a press conference, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Ashwini Vaishnaw gave an evasive response.

"Regarding who's attending... that's personal choices which people make, [about] which we should not comment, and I need not comment on that. If you want to comment, you can comment on your own. But I don't want to comment on it," he said.

The cancellation of Mr. Gates's appearance at the summit in Delhi on Thursday, where he was replaced by the President of the Gates Foundation's India and Africa offices, Ankur Vohra, was the latest in a series of controversies that organisers have had to contend with.

Switzerland's President announces Geneva as host of 2027 AI Impact Summit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Guy Parmelin

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Summit in 2027 will be held in Geneva, Switzerland's President Guy Parmelin said here on Thursday, making a pitch for smaller countries to "come together" to ensure good governance of AI development, so it is not held in the hands of a few "big powers".

Mr. Parmelin, who also met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bilateral talks on Thursday on the sidelines of the AI summit here, said they had discussed cooperating in innovation on artificial intelligence, multilateral cooperation, and trade ties after the conclusion of the India-EFTA trade agreement in 2024.

"Switzerland is looking forward to hosting the 2027 AI Summit in Geneva - and to working with the subsequent incoming host of the 2028 AI Summit, the United Arab Emirates, as partner for the Geneva Summit," Mr. Parmelin told presspersons at Switzerland's "Country Pavi-

lion" at the Bharat Mandapam complex after the plenary session. "It will also consolidate our role as a leading centre for innovation and research in AI," he said adding the next summit would focus on international law aspects of AI. Asked about the domination of the two big AI players, U.S. and China, who together account for more than 70% of the global AI industry, Mr. Parmelin said smaller countries should "organise" together and build infrastructure, while recognising specific technological breakthroughs in many of the other countries.

"It is very important that we work together so that the [technological fu-

ture of the world] is not just in a few hands of big powers," Mr. Parmelin said in response to a question from *The Hindu*. "We know some countries have taken a way forward, and it's very important that good governance is brought to everyone. Notably, countries like South Korea, France, Switzerland, need to work together to bring good governance to other countries," he added.

In a statement after his meeting with Mr. Modi, the Ministry of External Affairs said both leaders had discussed the benefits of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the four-nation European Free Trade association (EFTA) for bilateral trade.

"Both sides agreed to further strengthen collaboration in innovation-led growth, joint research, sharing of best practices, and capacity building through training and skill development initiatives," the MEA statement said.

Mr. Modi welcomed plans to hold the Fifth Summit in Switzerland.

'Technology with humanity': Macron pitches for an inclusive AI future

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI



Emmanuel Macron

In the face of increasing geopolitical tensions, there is a growing sense of urgency to direct all digital tools towards an inclusive approach and India and France will jointly work to build a framework for artificial intelligence (AI) by combining innovation with responsibility and technology with humanity, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday.

In his address at the AI Impact Summit here, Mr. Macron said France and India shared a common vision for developing a "sovereign AI" to protect the planet and foster prosperity for all.

"At a time when tensions are rising, there is an increased sense of urgency to direct all our digital tools towards this inclusive approach," he said.

"Let's focus together on bridging rather than dividing, creating rather than destroying, sharing rather than taking. France intends to use its G7 Presi-

dency to foster that vision," he added.

Mr. Macron said France, as the current G7 chair, would work towards ensuring protection of children against AI and digital abuse.

"This is why in France we are embarking on a process to ban social networks for children aged under 15," he said.

"I know, Mr. Prime Minister, you will join this club. This is great news that India will join such an approach to protect children and teenagers. We stand ready to take all necessary actions to ensure that our young citizens are truly safe," Mr. Macron said, apparently to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Describing India as a major player in the AI domain, the French President underlined the need for rules to govern use of AI. "I have come to convey that we are determined to continue to shape the rules of the game. And to do that with our allies, such as India, because we believe in core shared values, science, rule of law, global balance. Now is the time to channel our forces toward what works," he said.

"The future of AI will be built by those who combine innovation and responsibility. Technology with humanity. And India and France will help to shape this future together. And the journey has just begun," he said.

Trying to bridge the gap between warring communities: Manipur CM

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI



Yumnam Khemchand Singh

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Thursday said he could not predict when the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people displaced by the ethnic conflict over the last few years could return to the homes they left behind. However, his government is trying hard to bridge the gap between the two warring communities to remove the fear of venturing into each other's areas, he added.

More than 260 people have been killed, and about 62,000 displaced in the violence that broke out on May 3, 2023. Interacting with inter-

acting with the Kuki-Zo and Meitei IDPs was both physical and virtual.

Trust deficit

The IDPs from both communities poured their hearts out, narrating their plight and the hardships they have faced in the last three years. While a Kuki girl from Kangpokpi district told the Chief Minister to consider her as his own daughter and said she was facing difficulties in pursuing postgraduate studies, a Meitei woman said she yearned to return to her home in Moreh, a Kuki-majority town on the Myanmar border.

Another Kuki-Zo woman from a relief camp in Churachandpur under-

scored the difficulties her community members face in getting medical treatment.

Calling for the revival of *insaniyat* (humanity), the Chief Minister said he could not set a date for the IDPs to return home, but insisted that his government was leaving no stone unturned to bring the two warring sides together. "I will not let your tears go in vain," he said, adding that his government's priority was to remove the trust deficit between the two communities.

He said airtight security would be provided to Kuki-Zo people who want to visit the Meitei-dominated State capital of Imphal for medical treatment.

'Buffer zones may need to remain in Manipur; healing takes time'

The first woman Deputy CM of Manipur says that like 'a caring mother nurtures a peaceful home, she would like to carry forward the essence of care and responsibility in serving the people'; on addressing differences among tribal groups, she says she respects the distinct identities, but believes the way forward lies in inclusive consultation and recognising the common ground that binds them

INTERVIEW

Nemcha Kipgen

Vijaita Singh

On February 4, a new government was installed in Manipur after the ethnic strife-hit State remained under President's Rule for a year. Along with Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh, a Meitei, two Deputy Chief Ministers - Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki-Zo, and Losii Dikho, a Naga - were appointed ensuring all the three major communities are adequately represented.

Ms. Kipgen, who is at present in Kangpokpi, took oath from Manipur Bhawan in New Delhi and is yet to be allotted a portfolio, visit Imphal to assume office or attend the Assembly session. More than 250 people have been killed and around 60,000 people were displaced after ethnic violence bet-

ween the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people erupted in the northeastern State on May 3, 2023. Edited excerpts:

What are your expectations now that a new government has been formed in Manipur?

Women in most countries and societies constitute roughly 50% of the population. This reality should be reflected in any democracy when it comes to representation. I have been made the first woman Deputy Chief Minister of Manipur, and I sincerely thank the central BJP leadership for this trust. I will do my best to contribute towards peace, harmony, inclusive development, and gender justice as a woman leader.

I am optimistic that under the leadership of our Chief Minister, Y. Khemchand Singh, this government will rise to the expectations of the people.

What role do you see for

yourself in furthering peace as a Deputy Chief Minister?

My approach toward peace over violence will be care-centric. Women, in general, are caregivers by nature. A caring mother nurtures a peaceful home, and from that foundation, peaceful communities and societies are built. I would like to carry forward this essence of care, empathy, and responsibility in serving the people of Manipur, while also addressing other pressing governance concerns.

How do you plan to operate and fulfill official responsibilities from outside Imphal?

Circumstances have made governance unconventional, but responsibility remains unchanged. One's physical location does not diminish constitutional duty. I will function through constant coordination with officials, security agencies, and colleagues in



government. At the same time, being closer to affected areas allows me to remain grounded in the lived realities of the people, which should inform policy decisions rather than distance them.

Should the buffer zones between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei areas remain or is it time to remove them?

My response would be both yes and no. Buffer zones may need to continue in areas where the wounds of violence remain deep. Healing takes time, and safety must be the first priority.

There have been protests after you took charge as Deputy CM. How do you plan to convince people in Churachandpur about your decision?

I am a leader from my community, and I represent my people, not myself. I understand that there has been misunderstanding and concern regarding my decision to take charge as Deputy CM. The protests reflect pain, fear, and political anxieties born out of prolonged suffering, and I respect those emotions. This decision was taken in good faith and with a sense of long-term responsibility, not perso-

nal ambition. Sometimes leadership requires stepping into difficult spaces.

As a woman from the community, I understand the burden families, especially mothers and displaced women, are carrying. My commitment is to ensure that the concerns of my people are represented at the highest level. Trust cannot be demanded; it will be built through time, sincerity, and visible actions. I would only request that people do not judge too quickly, but allow the outcomes to speak for themselves.

How was a consensus reached on Y. Khemchand Singh's name? Why is he an acceptable candidate?

From my personal association with Y. Khemchand Singh during our journey in Manipur's legislative politics, I have found him to be a leader who advocates and practises multicultural understanding. Manipur is a multi-ethnic

State that has often witnessed contestations and tensions among different communities. He is someone who believes in addressing these fault lines through recognition of diversity and respect for differences within the framework of the Constitution. He respects minority rights - not only in terms of ethnicity, but also in terms of gender and broader human dignity. These qualities have made him an acceptable consensus leader at this crucial juncture.

Why were you in Delhi and not Imphal for the oath-taking ceremony?

Given the security situation and certain logistical constraints at that time, it was considered more appropriate for me to remain in Delhi. This was a practical decision based on safety considerations and not a reflection of disengagement from the State.

As a Cabinet Minister

from a tribal community, how are you planning to address differences among Kuki, Zomi, Hmar, Thadou and other tribal communities who assert distinct identities?

The assertion of distinct identities reflects lived histories and political realities that deserve recognition and respect. While communities may share experiences of suffering, each must be heard on its own terms. My approach will be consultative and inclusive, ensuring that no identity feels overshadowed. At the same time, we must recognise the common ground that binds us - our shared spaces, tribal heritage, cultural values, languages, faith traditions, social institutions, and our future, especially the future of our children. Harmony does not mean sameness; it means respecting distinct identities while strengthening the bonds that allow us to live together.

IN BRIEF



Shillong MP Ricky Andrew J. Syngkon passes away at 54

Ricky Andrew J. Syngkon, one of Meghalaya's two Lok Sabha members, died on Thursday evening following a cardiac arrest. He was 54. He denied Congress's Vincent H. Pala a fourth straight term from the Shillong parliamentary constituency. Syngkon reportedly collapsed while playing football in Mawiong on the outskirts of Shillong. He was rushed to a missionary hospital, but doctors could not revive him. He was an assistant professor of Economics at the North-Eastern Hill University before resigning to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections on Voice of the People Party ticket. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma offered his condolences on social media.

J&K Shia body ties up with IMD for moon sighting

The All J&K Shia Association has become the first Muslim body in the Union Territory to collaborate with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for moon sighting on the occasion of Ramzan. A delegation of the association, headed by its general secretary, Abid Hussain Ansari, convened a joint meeting with the IMD in Srinagar's Rambagh area "to observe the crescent", which announces the beginning of the fasting month of Muslims. "This step will help end dependence on moon sighting reports from other places and ensure local, credible, and timely confirmation for the community," Mr. Ansari said.

India signs statement condemning Israel's plan for West Bank

Sahasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

A day after it skipped a joint appearance with other countries at the United Nations to condemn Israel for its plans for West Bank settlements, India signed a joint statement late on Wednesday night.

The statement, which was read out by the Palestinian Ambassador to the UN, Riyad Mansour, on Tuesday in New York, criticised the Israeli government for its moves to expand its control over the West Bank areas under the Palestinian Authority.

Among those who accompanied Mr. Mansour were diplomats from Arab nations, BRICS members, Japan and Australia, European Union member states such as Germany, and all permanent members of

the UN Security Council, except for the U.S.

India's initial decision not to sign the statement, was seen as linked to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's travel to Israel on February 25-26 and his upcoming meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The decision was surprising given India's traditional support for a Palestinian state and its past criticism of Israel's settlement policy. However, the government appeared to shift its position and signed the document.

"More than 100 states and international organizations have joined the statement condemning Israel's unilateral measures and rejecting annexation," the Palestinian government announced late on Wednesday, including India's name in the statement.

Controversial movie title withdrawn: filmmaker to SC

Justice Nagarathna terms decision to step back on title *Ghooskhor Pandat* healthy and positive; she says 'sensibilities are fragile' nowadays; Justice Bhuyan says he will write a separate opinion

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday accepted an undertaking given by producer-director Neeraj Pandey to unequivocally relinquish the title of *Ghooskhor Pandat* even as the lead judge on the Bench, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, remarked that "sensibilities are fragile" nowadays.

The associate judge on the Bench, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, said he endorsed the order of the Bench, but would write a separate opinion on the case.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, seemed to dissuade the judge, saying the controversy was "settled", and a quietus arrived at.

"Don't prevent me from expressing my views," Justice Bhuyan addressed Mr. Mehta.

At one point, Justice Bhuyan wondered whether such petitions would open a Pandora's box.

Justice Nagarathna remarked that viewers cannot be "oversensitive".

The top court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by Atul Mishra, National Or-



Several groups had staged a protest against the release of the movie *Ghooskhor Pandat*, earlier this month. ANI

ganisation Secretary of the Brahman Samaj of India, seeking directions to stay the release of the movie scheduled to stream on Netflix.

Offensive title

The plea had alleged that the movie title and storyline were *prima facie* offensive and derogatory, portraying the Brahmin community in a defamatory manner.

The petition objected to the use of the word "*Pandat*", a caste and religion-identifying title, alongside "*Ghooskhor*", which denotes bribery and moral corruption.

The petition had alleged that the movie promoted

caste and religion-based stereotyping and threatened public order, communal harmony, and constitutional values.

The lawyers for the petitioner argued that the movie depicted the community in a bad light, associating corruption with it. Justice Nagarathna asked how they could authoritatively argue on the content of a yet-to-be-released film.

Justice Nagarathna's remarks on the Bench leaned in favour of bringing a quietus to the controversy, rather than taking the dispute any further.

She even indicated that YouTubers must abstain from poking the embers to

ignite another controversy on the issue. Mr. Mehta commented that social media was beyond control, and youngsters prefer social media over mainstream media.

Senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul, for the producer-director, urged the court to record in its order that the filmmakers "never had any intention to hurt the sentiments of a community".

'Appropriate stand'

Dictating the order, Justice Nagarathna said the filmmakers' response to step back on the movie title was "healthy and positive". The Bench observed that the filmmakers took an appropriate stand keeping in mind the future consequences had they remained adamant.

The previous hearing had witnessed the Bench question the motive of the filmmakers for choosing such a title.

"Why should you denigrate a section of society by using such a title? This is against morality and public order. We will not allow you to release the film unless you tell us the changed title," the Bench had said.

SC to hear from May 5 over 250 petitions challenging CAA for discrimination

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday scheduled the final hearing from May 5 in over 250 petitions challenging the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 and its Rules, which accelerate the grant of Indian citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the court would hear the case back-to-back from May 5 till May 7 and take it up again on May 12 to hear any rejoinder arguments before reserving judgment.

The court said it would first hear the "general" CAA petitions and then examine complex issues con-



SC will hear 'general' pleas first, then examine complex issues

cerning the citizenship law in Assam and Tripura.

A group of petitions have contended that the CAA and its Rules were a threat to Assam's demography. They have argued that the CAA did not apply to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram or Tripura included in the Sixth Schedule and the areas covered under 'The Inner Line' notified under the Bengal Eastern Fron-

tier Regulation, 1873.

The case had last come up in March 2024 before a Bench led by then CJI D.Y. Chandrachud.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the petitioners, had then argued that the Act came into existence in 2019 and the government had waited for nearly five years to notify the Rules. "Once the process of grant of citizenship starts under this Act, it cannot be reversed," Mr. Sibal had submitted.

Mr. Sibal represents the Indian Union Muslim League, the primary petitioner in the lead case, which has 237 separate petitions challenging the legality of the CAA, 2019 on the ground that it discriminates in granting citizenship on the basis of religion.

Congress condemns death threats to Rahul and '25 MPs'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday condemned the video of a man claiming to be associated with the Karni Sena issuing death threats to Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and "25 other MPs", with party general secretary K.C. Venugopal accusing the BJP of fostering a "toxic culture of animosity" in national discourse.

Superintendent of Police, Kota, Tejaswani Gautam said the man, who identified himself as Raj Singh in the video, had been detained at the Borkheda police station.

In a post on X, Mr. Venugopal said "self-proclaimed Modi bhakts are brazenly issuing death threats

'No clear evidence', man gets sentence for attempt to rape

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

In a recent order, the Chhattisgarh High Court has ruled that ejaculation without penetration constitutes an attempt to commit rape, and not actual rape.

Setting aside the conviction of a Dhamtari district resident for rape in a 2004 case, the court convicted him of attempt to commit rape. In its February 16 order, the court stated that it was clear that the commission of actual rape had not been established, as the victim's own statement created doubt.

Pointing out at the inconsistency in the survivor's testimony, the Bench corroborated it with the evidence of a doctor, who had stated that the hymen was not ruptured and there was partial penetration.

"In the cross-examination, she [the survivor] reiterated that there was a possibility of partial penetration. However, this evidence is sufficient to prove that an attempt to commit rape was made, but not rape," the judgment noted.

The prosecution's case was that on May 21, 2004, the survivor was alone at

A doctor had given evidence in a 2004 case that there had been partial penetration

her house when the accused came and asked whether she would go to a shop. When she asked him for money, the appellant forcibly dragged her to his house, where he forced himself on her. Thereafter, he allegedly tied her up and locked her in his house.

An FIR was lodged at Arjuni police station. The following year, the trial court sentenced the accused to rigorous imprisonment for seven years under Section 376(1) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, with a fine, as well as rigorous imprisonment for six months under Section 342 (wrongful confinement) of the IPC.

The man then appealed against the order in the High Court. His counsel submitted that the prosecution had not proved the case beyond reasonable doubt, whereas the State submitted that it had done so. After hearing the arguments, the High Court stated there was a possibility of partial penetration.

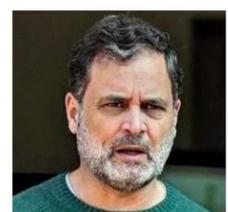
SC takes up suo motu case to strengthen Bar bodies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has directed the formulation of terms of reference to evolve a mechanism to bring in transparency and accountability in the functioning of Bar Associations across the country.

A Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma has asked advocate Vipin Nair, nodal counsel in the *suo motu* reference titled 'Re: Strengthening and Enhancing the Institutional Strength of Bar Associations', to distribute suggested terms of reference to the Registrar General of State High Courts for circulations among Bar Associations.

The court said it would consider the suggestions received from Bar bodies across the country.



Rahul Gandhi

against Rahul Gandhi in broad daylight – without any reprimand from the ruling regime". "This is a direct result of the toxic culture of animosity and vengeance created by the BJP in national discourse... They treat political opponents as die-hard enemies to be eliminated..." he said. He said such threats would not deter Mr. Gandhi, saying he "will continue to face each adversary head on".

THE CROSSWORD+ 14722 (set by VMA Nair)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at <https://thehindu.com/crosswords>

SCAN TO PLAY

Across

- Poke around old parlour (6)
- General manager finally arranged photographic equipment (8)
- Head of inventory in Somalia enthralled by lively merger (6)
- Arab chaps present at the back (8)
- Your old guards about to acknowledge a funeral song (8)
- Cry over one boring North American country (6)

Down

- Duration of English film E.T. varies outside India (8)
- Unusual posture limiting king's movement towards top (8)
- Dangerous, stoned criminal showing friendliness (4-11)
- Christmas story unsettling Vatican City (4)
- Company owned by Indian origin techies initially developed system for controlling the temperature (3-12)
- Old woman from Gabon controlled New York (6)
- Detective Inspector taps official phone again (6)
- Unlucky day to open state park? Not quite (7)
- Navy mainly taking tips from lawmakers on amount a person can carry (7)
- Seaman given unopened parcel for cancellation (8)
- Harry Kane has supporters in US state (8)
- Couple on board ultimately having a series of rows (6)
- Publisher lives with petitioner (6)
- Spot a male cat (4)

SUDOKU

		7	1			4	8	2
				9				
6	2					5		9
					3			
8	6					7	1	
			9					
2	8					1	3	
				4				
6	4	3				7	8	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P	A	L	A	C	E	C	L	O	C	K	S
A	E	H	G	E	H	P					
U	N	S	U	A	L	G	A	R	A	G	E
I	S	L	P	P	R	C					
S	C	H	O	L	B	O	Y	S	T	H	I
N	E	T	E	M							
B	A	S	I	N	E	N	F	O	R	C	E
R	G	N	U	N							
H	A	P	P	I	E	S	T	R	E	I	N
C	O	G	T								
G	E	T	S	S	T	A	T	I	S	T	I
L	I	T	T								
G	E	N	E	R	A						
T	R	R									
S	Y	S	T	E	M						

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	7	9	3	1	5	4	2
9	3	5	2	4	8	1	6	7
2	4	1	5	6	7	8	3	9
1	5	6	3	7	9	4	2	8
7	9	4	1	8	2	6	5	3
3	2	8	6	5	4	9	7	1
5	7	9	4	1	3	2	8	6
6	1	3	8	2	5	7	9	4
4	8	2	7	9	6	3	1	5

FAITH

Three pillars of Dharma

The term Dharma is far deeper and more comprehensive than the ordinary sense in which it is often used. While most words convey a single meaning or, at best, a few related meanings, Dharma embraces the very essence of a thing or a person. According to the sastras, Dharma is that intrinsic nature or defining characteristic by which an object or a person is truly known. It is this Dharma alone that elevates a person.

In a discourse, Sri Damodara Dikshitar explained that Dharma consists of three important aspects. These aspects together shape and preserve a person's true nature, guiding thought, word, and deed in harmony with righteousness. Dharma, as explained by the sastras, unfolds through three essential and interrelated aspects, all of which are exclusive to human beings.

Atma Guna: This refers to cultivating noble inner qualities that define a person's true character. Patience, straightforwardness, grace, compassion, truthfulness, and a natural inclination to help others are some of the virtues that fall under Atma Guna.

Anusthanam: Anusthanam denotes the disciplined observance of practices and rituals prescribed in the sastras. This includes regulated food habits, daily duties, and other ordained observances.

Aradhanam: Aradhanam signifies reverence and worship. Paying due respect to one's father and mother, showing devotion and obedience to gurus and worshipping God all come under this aspect. Whenever these three pillars of Dharma – Atma Guna, Anusthanam and Aradhanam – are neglected, disorder prevails in the world.

IN BRIEF



Nifty 50 falls 1.4% as U.S.-Iran tension spike crude prices

The 50-share NSE Nifty 50 slumped 1.4% to 25,454.3 points as crude prices rose on threat of an imminent U.S. military attack on Iran. The index opened at 25,873.35 and increased a few points to the day's high of 25,885.3 points before shedding 500 points to hit the day's low of 25,388.75 points and closing. On a sectoral basis, barring five of the 21 indices, all of them declined, with Auto index moving down 2.1%. Sensex too fell 1.48% to hit 82,498.14 points.

Aurobindo gets ₹170 cr. GST demand over past refunds

Aurobindo Pharma on Thursday said the GST Department had issued orders directing the company to pay nearly ₹170 crore over refunds granted earlier. The Additional Commissioner of Central Tax, Ranga Reddy GST Commissionerate, Hyderabad, has passed orders alleging erroneous refund of accumulated input tax credit (ITC) during September-December 2022. The disputed amount is ₹169,83,61,326 consisting of ₹84,91,80,663 GST and an equal penalty.

Bernstein identifies Paytm as 'monetisation leader'

India's digital payments ecosystem is moving beyond a scale-led narrative, with merchant payments emerging as the core driver of revenues and accounting for nearly three-fourths of the industry's net revenue pool, according to Bernstein's latest sector primer. Within this merchant-led framework, Bernstein identified Paytm as a monetisation leader. The brokerage estimates Paytm's net payment margin at around 9 basis points, including device revenue. PTI

Tata Group, OpenAI announce pact after Anthropic, Infosys

While IT firms' stocks were rattled by developments in AI models' agentic capabilities, firms like Tata, Infosys opined AI could be good for business

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Tata Group and OpenAI announced a "multi-dimensional strategic partnership" on Thursday. As a part of this partnership, OpenAI will be the first tenant of Tata's HyperVault unit, with a capacity of 100 megawatts — and a future expansion capacity of 1 gigawatt, amounting to 0.2% of India's current installed electric capacity.

Some Tata employees will get access to OpenAI's more advanced enterprise models, and the firms will work together to build agentic AI systems for TCS clients, the companies said. Tata said it will also provide AI training to youth under this deal.

The tie-up follows a similar deal between Claude maker Anthropic and Info-



Future ready: Tata Group CEO N. Chandrasekaran delivers a speech during the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi on Thursday. AFP

sys, another systems integrator. Both IT firms' stock prices sharply fell when Claude's latest model, Opus 4.6, was released.

With this deal, Tata seeks to signal that AI will add to their business, as opposed to take away from it, with investors fearing the latter.

"AI is, in my opinion, the biggest opportunity for the tech sector and the IT industry because the IT in-

dustry's real value is the context and understanding of every enterprise's business and technology landscape, and making the right technology work inside the processes and the ecosystem, the supplier, customer and all the other connections an enterprise has," Tata Group chairman N. Chandrasekaran said in a keynote on Thursday. This process, he said, would benefit from AI.

'If used wisely, AI can usher in an era of super-abundance'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

AI will be transformative for India, Tata Group chairman N. Chandrasekaran said in his keynote at the AI Impact Summit's plenary. "AI is a foundational technology that cuts across all industries," Mr. Chandrasekaran said. "AI is nothing artificial. It is real because it learns from data and learns faster every day, and it is not based on any fixed rules. It can scale and it does scale pretty rapidly. Putting all this together, AI to my mind is the next big infrastructure," he said.

"If wisely used, I believe AI can usher in an era of super-abundance," RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani said in his keynote. "For the first time, humans are creating human-like systems that can learn, speak, analyse, move and produce autonomously ... I see AI as a modern-day Akshaya Patra — the legendary vessel in Mahabharata that provided endless nourishment to all."

Mr. Ambani said that Jio will strive to reduce the "cost of intelligence" as it did the cost of internet access. Referring to chip and mineral embargoes, Mr. Ambani warned, "Be it chips or rare earths, AI works its magic through sharing, not hoarding."

Sam Altman, Dario Amodei and Sundar Pichai all evoked a rapidly evolving AI development landscape. "There are only a small number of years left for AI models surpassing the cognitive capabilities of



Mukesh Ambani speaking during the AI Impact Summit

most humans for most things," said Mr. Amodei, the CEO of Claude developer Anthropic.

Mr. Altman of OpenAI was equally effusive on the changes AI models have seen in the last few months. "We've gone from AI systems that struggled with high school-level math to systems that can do research-level mathematics now and derive novel results in theoretical physics," he said.

"On our current trajectory, we believe we may be only a couple of years away from early versions of true superintelligence," Mr. Altman concurred.

"We are on the cusp of hyperprogress and new discoveries that can help emerging economies leapfrog legacy gaps," Mr. Pichai said. "Technology brings incredible benefits, but we must ensure everyone has access to them. We cannot allow the digital divide to become an AI divide. That means investing in compute infrastructure and connectivity."

"We have the opportunity to improve lives at a once-in-generation scale," Mr. Pichai said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,498	-1.48
Gold	1,58,650	1.24
Brent oil	71.56	2.84

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2156.70	-54.50
Adani Ports	1513.30	-37.50
Apollo Hosp	7592.50	-55.00
Asian Paints	2400.80	-31.30
Axis Bank	1356.60	-20.40
Bajaj Auto	9729.00	-251.00
Bajaj Finserv	2033.20	-27.40
Bajaj Finance	1017.05	-6.75
Bharat Elec.	435.35	-12.35
Bharti Airtel	1988.60	-33.20
Cipla	1328.90	-20.90
Coal India	416.15	-1.85
Dr Reddys Lab	1282.30	2.00
Eicher Motors	7897.00	-112.50
Eternal Ltd.	271.75	-5.60
Grasim Ind.	2864.30	-69.50
HCL Tech	1450.40	-16.80
HDFC Bank	915.60	-9.10
HDFC Life	733.15	3.55
Hindalco	905.65	6.40
Hind Unilever	2279.30	-44.20
ICI Bank	1388.80	-19.40
IntGlobeAvi	4815.10	-165.30
Infosys	1370.50	-3.20
ITC	326.00	-6.45
Jio Financial Serv.	258.60	-5.50
JSW Steel	1228.40	-22.80
Kotak Bank	416.40	-9.75
Kwality Walls	28.59	-0.94
L&T	4280.50	-45.40
M&M	3431.80	-98.70
Maruti Suzuki	14903.00	-261.00
Max Healthcare	1081.45	-4.80
NestleIndia	1278.50	-22.40
NTPC	363.20	-5.20
ONGC	274.65	10.05
PowerGrid Corp	294.65	-5.90
Reliance Ind	1409.50	-31.80
SBI Life	2043.00	-16.60
State Bank	1205.70	-13.20
Shriram Finance	1054.70	-21.50
Sun Pharma	1713.40	-11.00
TataConsumer/Pro-	1160.50	-9.20
duct	205.41	-3.62
Tata Steel	205.41	-3.62
TCS	2677.90	-17.00
Tech Mahindra	1479.30	-25.50
Titan	4198.20	-50.40
Tata Motors PV	375.70	-7.15
Trent Ltd.	4067.90	-119.30
UltraTech Cement	12688.00	-364.00
Wipro	211.21	-0.74

Silver futures rise ₹1,037 to ₹2,45,305/kg

Silver prices on Thursday rose ₹1,037 to ₹2,45,305 per kg in futures trade on firm global trends. Globally, silver was trading 1.46% higher at \$78.32 per ounce in New York. PTI

mahindra Rise

MAHINDRA PERCUSSION FESTIVAL

In Association With THE HINDU

DAY 1 - 7TH MARCH

YĀTRĀ BY MAHESH KALE

NADA PRAVAHAM
FT. PADMA VIBHUSHAN UMayALPURAM
K. SIVARAMAN
& ISHAAN GHOSH, SHRAVAN SAMSI

DAY 2 - 8TH MARCH

DRUMS OF THE EAST BY BICKRAM GHOSH
FT. ABHISEK MALLICK, GOPAL BARMAN, RANJAN DE, GOKUL DHAAKI & TEAM

WOMEN WHO DRUM
FT. SWARUPA ANANTH, CHARU HARIHARAN, NUSH LEWIS, SHALINI MOHAN, HAMTA BAGHI

THE PARAI AWAKENS - UNRESERVED LIVE BY PRAVEEN SPARSH
FT. NANBARGAL GRAMIYA KALAI KUZHU, MLYAI M KARTHIKEYAN, DHOLAK KACCHA, LAXMAN ARVIND

PRESTIGE CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS, BENGALURU

GENEVA UN's investigation in Sudan finds 'hallmarks of genocide' in El-Fasher



The UN's independent fact-finding mission on Sudan said on Thursday the siege and capture of El-Fasher by Rapid Support Forces (RSF) bore "the hallmarks of genocide".

SEOUL S. Korean court hands life term to ex-President Yoon for insurrection



A South Korean court sentenced former President Yoon Suk Yeol to life in prison, after finding him guilty of masterminding an insurrection, stemming from his attempt to impose martial law.

LIMA Peru picks Balcazar as interim President, eighth leader in decade



Peruvian lawmakers picked Jose Maria Balcazar as the country's new interim President on Wednesday, after previous leader Jose Jeri was impeached on graft allegations.

ISLAMABAD Pak. issues demarche to Taliban over use of land for terror attack



Pakistan has issued a demarche to Afghanistan's Taliban regime over the alleged use of Afghan soil for a recent terrorist attack that claimed the lives of 11 soldiers.

Iran, U.S. boost military posture amid rising tensions in West Asia

Iran, Russia hold joint naval drills in the Persian Gulf; Trump to reportedly consider whether to launch an attack on Iran soon; Khamenei urges Iranians to resist external aggression, quoting a Koran verse; talks in Geneva make little progress

Stanly Johnny

Tensions remained high in West Asia on Thursday as the U.S. continued to bolster its military presence in the region, Iran conducted naval drills along with Russia in the Persian Gulf and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Iranians to resist any external aggression.

"There are many reasons and arguments that one could make for a strike against Iran," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said in Washington, adding that "Iran would be very wise to make a deal with President Trump".

U.S. media reported on Wednesday that President Donald Trump would decide whether to strike Iran or not as soon as this weekend. The U.S. has deployed one aircraft carrier and dozens of fighter jets, warships, guided destroyers, fuel tankers and missile defence systems to the region. A second air-

craft carrier is expected to reach the Mediterranean Sea next week.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei posted a verse from Koran in social media on Thursday, indicating that an attack could be imminent and urging Iranians to resist. "So should anyone aggress against you, assail him in the manner he assailed you," it read.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced on Thursday that Iranian and Russian forces have successfully carried out a mock operation to rescue a hijacked vessel during combat naval drills near the Bandar Abbas port in the Persian Gulf. This is the second live-fire drill IRGC is carrying out since tensions between the U.S. and Iran spiked last month.

Russia warned against an "unprecedented escalation of tension" around Iran and urged restraint amid the U.S. military build-up in the region.



Preparations afoot: Members of the Iranian Army attend a joint naval exercise of Iran and Russia in Iran on Thursday.

"These are planned exercises and they are agreed upon in advance," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said in Moscow.

"Russia continues to develop relations with Iran and in doing so, we call on our Iranian friends and all parties in the region to exercise restraint and prudence" he added.

Iran and the U.S. held a second round of talks on February 17 in Geneva under Oman's mediation. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi had said both

sides had made "progress" in talks and agreed on "guiding principles" for future talks. But the Americans were less optimistic. Vice-President J.D. Vance said in an interview that "gaps remain" between the two sides.

Iran has said it would negotiate only about its nuclear programme, while the U.S., according to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, wants to put Iran's missile programme and its support for regional non-state allies also on the

agenda. The U.S. also wants Iran to end uranium enrichment completely.

Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, said on Thursday that Iran would not abandon its right to nuclear enrichment. "Iran's nuclear programme is proceeding according to the rules of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and no country can deprive Iran of the right to peacefully benefit from this technology," Mr. Eslami said at an event in Tehran, according to state media.

In June, the U.S. joined Israel to attack Iran's nuclear facilities. Mr. Trump then claimed that the U.S. "obliterated" Iran's nuclear programme. Earlier this year, he asked Iran to make a deal over its nuclear programme or face "profound consequences".

Iran has previously said it was not seeking to build a bomb, but has ruled out giving up its nuclear programme entirely.

Israel, Hamas committed atrocities in Gaza, says UN

Reuters GENEVA

Israeli forces, Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups have both committed serious violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza and carried out atrocity crimes, a UN report published on Thursday said.

Intensified Israeli attacks and the forcible transfer of Palestinians appeared aimed at a permanent demographic shift in Gaza "raising concerns over ethnic cleansing," the report by the UN human rights office said.

The holding and mistreatment of hostages by the Hamas Islamist militant group may amount to war crimes, it said.

Israel's permanent mission in Geneva dismissed the report's findings about Israel's actions, and said in a statement that the UN human rights office had lost its credibility.

The 17-page report investigated events in Gaza from November 2024 to October 31, 2025.

Israel's actions had imposed "conditions of life increasingly incompatible



Palestinians gather near the rubble of residential buildings destroyed during the two-year Israeli offensive in Gaza.

with Palestinians' continued existence as a group in Gaza", the report said.

Militarised distribution centres run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation backed by Israel and the United States "failed utterly" to deliver humanitarian aid at the scale required, violating Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law, it said.

Israeli practices in Gaza and the occupied West Bank indicated an accelerating effort to consolidate the annexation of large parts of occupied Palestinian territory, the report said.

The report found that the killing last June of 12 Palestinian staff associated

with the GHF, including possible summary executions, may amount to war crimes by Hamas.

The report also raised concerns about the use of civilians as human shields to prevent Israeli attacks, something Hamas has denied doing, and outlined unnecessary or disproportionate use of force by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

The holding of and mistreatment of hostages taken in the Hamas attack on Israel in 2023 may amount to war crimes and potentially other atrocity crimes, the report said. It cited allegations of torture, beating and deprivation of food.

Inside the rise of Unitree, glimpse into China's growing tech ambitions

Ananth Krishnan BEIJING

It's been an eventful week for the Chinese robotics firm Unitree, which has managed to find itself at the centre of national conversations both in China and in India.

First, in the country where it is based, Unitree's latest humanoid robots made a stunning splash on February 16, performing complicated martial arts on China's most watched television spectacle, the annual Chinese New Year gala that is watched by more than half a billion people.

Then, days later, one of Unitree's older robotic models, a quadruped "robo dog", unwittingly found itself in the headlines because of a display by the private Galgotias University at the ongoing AI Impact Summit in New Delhi. The university was forced to close its stall after it emerged that, what some of its representatives claimed was a home-grown design, turned out to be a Unitree Go2 quadruped. A model of the Go2 can be purchased online for \$1,600.

Unitree, a private company started by tech entrepreneur Wang Xinxing (36) who designed his first robot at university, said this week it plans to sell as many as 20,000 humanoid ro-



A Unitree Robotics humanoid robot takes part in a 400m race in Beijing.

bots this year, an almost four-fold rise from 2025. The company's name derives from "universe" and "tree", according to a South China Morning Post report, taken from a popular Chinese phrase "lightning up the technology tree". The February 16 display of its latest fully autonomous GI robot stirred wide attention in China, representing a significant improvement from a display only one year ago where robots performed largely stiff hand-waving motions. This year, they displayed martial arts and punched and kicked with flexibility. Mr. Wang's latest kung fu-performing humanoid robots, he told state media this week, "lay the groundwork for future robot deployment" in a range of scenarios.

Unitree, in fact, is only one among many robotics firms reshaping the country's tech landscape. As the Post reported, the coun-

try's share of the global robotics market last year was 40%, and the domestic market is expected to grow from \$47 billion in 2024 to \$108 billion in 2028. Unitree and AgiBot lead the pack of a stunning 7,40,000 reported firms in the robotics field in a highly competitive marketplace. The competition is so fierce that Chinese media reported that Unitree and AgiBot had entered a bidding war to showcase their products in the New Year programme offering more than \$10 million to do so (reports the companies have denied).

Rapid expansion

As with China's congested Electric Vehicles market, Chinese analysts are concerned that the rapid and unbridled expansion may see many of these firms struggle to compete or even survive. Robotics is among industries prioritised in the country's 15th five-year plan (2026-30), set to be approved next month. In October, the Communist Party Central Committee approved recommendations for the plan, calling for "faster progress in securing breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields" and to "redouble efforts to develop emerging pillar industries".

"We should launch industrial innovation pro-

jects and make integrated moves to construct innovation facilities, advance technological research and development (R&D), and promote product upgrading," the document said, also calling to "accelerate the development of industrial clusters in strategic emerging fields". It also called for exploring "market regulation rules and work to foster new drivers of economic growth.

Unitree's rise reflects how quickly China's tech space is evolving. Its founder, Mr. Wang, developed his first prototype only ten years ago when he was in university, and spent, according to Chinese media reports, only 20,000 Yuan (then around ₹2 lakh) on developing his first model, a quadruped robot. That model won him a grant of 80,000 Yuan from a competition in Zhejiang province, where he was enrolled at the Zhejiang Sci-Tech University.

Another model he developed when pursuing his master's in Shanghai brought him national attention at a time when China had begun an intense "Made in China 2025" plan to upgrade industries and boost innovation, releasing a flood of funding to universities and provincial governments. This drive has both spurred innovation and fuelled the rise of companies like Unitree.

ISRO Tender Notice: KERALA IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Includes details for KIIDC projects and contact information.

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Tender Notice No. 31/2025-26/SE/IBML/VE/IDB. dt.17-02-2026. Details regarding tendering for works.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice. Tender No: KWA-SP-11/2025-26/INS/PN RENEWAL OF TAILOR-MADE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY FOR KERALA WATER AUTHORITY PENSIONERS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS FOR the year 2026-27.

Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage and Infrastructure Corporation Ltd. Tender Notice No. 12/2025-26. Details regarding tendering for water supply and sewerage projects.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संगम द्वितीय जोधपुर (मुख्यालय बाड़मेर). निविदा सूचना संख्या: 10 वर्ष 2025-2026. NIB No. PWD2526A5587.

राजस्थान स्कूल शिक्षा परिषद् CORRIGENDUM. अल्पकालिन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 17 (सिविल) /2025-26 (बालिका सैनिक स्कूल के निर्माण कार्यों हेतु).

MAKING HEADS TURN

Everyone loves an underdog story: Raza on Zimbabwe's performance



I don't think anyone gave us a chance (of reaching the Super Eight). To win everyone's hearts and respect is a good position to be in. If we can win two out of three games (in the next phase), who knows what can happen. Everyone loves an underdog story — Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza after the team topped the group stage.

LOOKING AHEAD

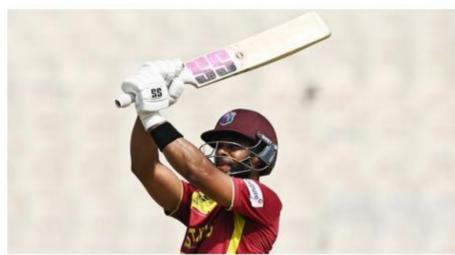
We have three big games coming up, going to be interesting: Mendis



It's been a good campaign for us. We have three big games coming up and we have played the three (England, New Zealand and Pakistan) frequently in the last 12 months... going to be interesting. I have never played in the semifinal of an ICC event and I am looking forward to that — Kusal Mendis, Sri Lanka's wicketkeeper-batter.

T20 BATTING MANTRA

It's about scoring off as many deliveries as possible: Hope



In T20s, effectiveness and efficiency are more important than perception. We love to see the ball going 106m into the crowd. But the same guy may face dots and get a single at the end of the over. I'll hit three twos and a 60m six at the back of the over... for me, it's about scoring off as many deliveries as possible — Shai Hope.

LIMITED CHANCES

'Our next T20 game is probably in 2027... that conveys where we are'



The next thing we've got is in August — a few blocks of ODI series. That's our next stepping stone in ODI cricket. Our next T20 game is probably in 2027, which says where we are at the moment. We had a real chance of beating England, but we just don't play enough to nail it when we get close — Harry Manenti, Italy skipper.

Bennett, Raza fashion Zimbabwe's emphatic victory over Sri Lanka

The opener hits an unbeaten 63 while the skipper slams a 26-ball 45 as the Africans enter the Super Eight with an unbeaten record; Marumani and Burl, too, chip in; Nissanka's fifty goes in vain; Muzarabani, Evans and Cremer claim two wickets each

T20 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

Brian Bennett's measured fifty and Sikandar Raza's raw power propelled Zimbabwe to a facile six-wicket win over a fancied Sri Lanka as it entered the Super Eight of the T20 World Cup with an unbeaten record, here on Thursday.

Chasing 179 on a rather sluggish surface, Zimbabwe needed pragmatism and force in equal measure, and those elements were offered by Bennett (63 n.o., 48b, 8x4, 4x6), respectively. Zimbabwe chased down the target with three balls to spare.

Zimbabwe can be proud of its show as it had also stunned Australia earlier.

It reached 55 for no loss in the PowerPlay, thanks to openers Bennett and Tadi Marumani (34, 26b, 5x4, 1x6). The two added 69 for the first wicket in 8.3 overs before Marumani fell to Dumith Wellalage.

Bennett reached his fifty off 41 balls. Raza pummeled pacer Dilshan Madushanka for two sixes in a row, followed by a four in the 15th over to give his



On the charge: Raza's big hits brought the asking rate down. AP

side some steam. He then clouted a six and four off spinner Maheesh Theekshana in the 16th over.

The scores:
Sri Lanka 178/7 in 20 overs (Pathum Nissanka 62, Pavan Rathnayake 44, Blessing

Points table						
GROUP A						
	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
India (Q)	4	4	0	0	8	2.500
Pakistan (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	0.976
USA	4	2	2	0	4	0.788
Netherlands	4	1	3	0	2	-1.217
Namibia	4	0	4	0	0	-3.108
GROUP B						
	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Zimbabwe (Q)	4	3	0	1	7	1.506
Sri Lanka (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	1.741
Ireland	4	1	2	1	3	0.150
Australia	3	1	2	0	2	0.414
Oman	3	0	3	0	0	-4.546
GROUP C						
	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
West Indies (Q)	4	4	0	0	8	1.874
England (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	0.201
Scotland	4	1	3	0	2	0.184
Italy	4	1	3	0	2	-1.020
Nepal	4	1	3	0	2	-1.349
GROUP D						
	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
South Africa (Q)	4	4	0	0	8	1.943
New Zealand (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	1.227
Afghanistan	4	2	2	0	4	0.889
UAE	4	1	3	0	2	-1.364
Canada	4	0	4	0	0	-2.426

Muzarabani 2/38, Brad Evans 2/35, Graeme Cremer 2/27
lost to Zimbabwe 182/4 in 19.3 overs (Brian Bennett 63 n.o., Tadi

Marumani 34, Sikandar Raza 45, Dushan Hemantha 2/36).
Toss: Sri Lanka.
PoM: Sikandar Raza.

Sublime Hope, incisive Joseph ease West Indies past Italy



Unforgiving: Hope smacked six fours and four maximums in his 75-run knock while Joseph, right, snapped up four wickets to dismantle Italy's challenge. RITU RAJ KONWAR

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
KOLKATA

Skipper Shai Hope (75, 46b, 6x4, 4x6) found a gear between timing and intent to steer West Indies to 165 for six, setting up a 42-run win over Italy in their last Group-C match of the ongoing T20 World Cup at the Eden Gardens here on Thursday.

His innings gathered pace without ever looking like it was trying to. It didn't announce itself; it revealed itself, over by over. It was T20 batting with an accent — classical strokes, spoken quickly, fluently, and with no wasted syllables. Power arrived not as a flex but as a consequence.

He expressed his class through covers, caressing, blasting, and lofting four fours and a six there. The bowlers kept flirting with that line outside off, and

the bat kept responding with the same calm verdict.

Meanwhile, his teammates either struggled to begin or to endure.

Brandon King (4) and Shimron Hetmyer (1) fell early to the pacers, before the spinners took over.

Roston Chase made a scratchy 24 off 25 balls before hacking across the line and skying an outside edge off Ben Manenti. Rovman Powell (9) followed soon after, holing out to deep backward square just after launching a six there, also off Manenti.

West Indies was squeezed for flourish at the death as leg-spinner Crishan Kalugamage struck twice.

Hope, looking to slog sweep, was cleaned up by a googly, before Jason Holder (9) holed out to long-on. Sherfane Rutherford (24 n.o.) accounted for

nearly half the runs at the death, striking two fours and a six.

Italy's chase never settled into anything durable. Early intent gave way to caution as wickets fell and the asking rate climbed beyond comfort.

Pacers Shamar Joseph (four for 30) and Matthew Forde (three for 19) ensured that Italy fell well short of the target.

Italy can take heart from its bowling and fielding in the contest. As for its overall effort in the campaign, it will be acknowledged with a reception from the Italian Senate, as revealed by head coach John Davison before the match.

The scores: West Indies 165/6 in 20 overs (Shai Hope 75, Ben Manenti 2/37, Crishan Kalugamage 2/25) bt Italy 123 in 18 overs (Matthew Forde 3/19, Gudakesh Motie 2/24, Shamar Joseph 4/30).

Toss: Italy; **PoM:** Hope.

Zadran, Nabi steal the show as Afghans sign off in style

Pranav Rajiv
CHENNAI

Opener Ibrahim Zadran's career-best T20I score and Mohammad Nabi's four-wicket haul were the highlights of Afghanistan's 82-run win against Canada in a T20 World Cup game at Chepauk on Thursday.

Zadran's unbeaten 95 was the cornerstone of Afghanistan's first-innings batting effort that culminated at 200 for four.

Canada never posed a real challenge in the chase after its top-order batters were left confounded by Afghanistan's imperious spin attack.

Mujeeb Ur Rahman claimed his customary wicket in the PowerPlay before Nabi and Rashid Khan wrung the life out of the Canadian pursuit.

Nabi, in particular, was a tough nut for the Canadian batters to crack. The veteran off-spinner conceded just seven runs from his four-over spell.

Nabi was denied a maiden T20I fife-for after wicketkeeper Rahmanullah Gurbaz dropped a skier in his final over. But, by then, the veteran had ensured



On song: Zadran entertained a lively crowd. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Today's match

Australia vs Oman

Pallekele, 7.00 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 1

Australia 1 | Oman 0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIHOTSTAR

that Afghanistan would sign off with a win.

Earlier, Zadran entertained a lively crowd, which counted more than 18,000, with a pleasing mix of deft touches and assertive big hits. Zadran began slowly, adding just 14 runs from 14 balls. Meanwhile, his opening partner, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, sparkled with a streak of

off-side boundaries.

Afghanistan's progress, though, was impeded by a double strike from pacer Jaskaran Singh in the sixth over, which consumed Gurbaz and Gulbadin Naib.

But the Afghan innings was reinvigorated by a 95-run third-wicket partnership between Zadran and Sediqullah Atal.

Zadran propelled Afghanistan to the 200-run mark, which eventually proved to be more than sufficient.

The scores:
Afghanistan 200/4 in 20 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 30, Ibrahim Zadran 95 n.o., Sediqullah Atal 44, Jaskaran Singh 3/52) bt Canada 118/8 in 20 overs (Harsh Thaker 30, Mohammad Nabi 4/7, Rashid Khan 2/19).

Toss: Canada; **PoM:** Zadran.

I really worked hard on my fitness, says Dube

Dhruva Prasad
AHMEDABAD

A year ago, it would have been hard to imagine that Shivam Dube would be so pivotal to India's T20I set-up. It took hard work, self-belief and trust for the 32-year-old to emerge from Hardik Pandya's shadow as an all-rounder in his own right.

"It's been a long time since I played my first World Cup [in 2024], and I got to know what I needed to do in future, so that I can be better, not just as a batsman, but also as an all-rounder," Dube said after his momentum-shifting 31-ball 66 against the Netherlands here on Wednesday.

"I prepared myself in all those departments, which are batting, bowling, and fielding. I worked really hard on my fitness. Now I am bowling well, now I am batting well.

"My bowling has become better because of my fitness. All credit goes to Gautam [Gambhir] and Surya [Suryakumar Yadav] because they believed in me."

The burly left-hander's lower-order cameos have



Pay-off: Dube credits all the work done in training for helping him become a better all-rounder. VIJAY SONEJI

been vital for India in the last three games of the ongoing T20 World Cup.

The hallmark of Dube's innings against the Dutch was his ability to anticipate the slower deliveries and line up the short ball, which he once struggled against. Dube revealed that he had identified the chink in his armour and worked on it during the off-season after his maiden stint with Chennai Super Kings in 2022.

A more acute sense of game awareness has also helped Dube become 'smarter' and shake off the reputation of being a slogger. After Tilak Varma perished in the ninth over, Dube took his time to assess the situation and conditions before teeing off.

"As a batter, I know that even if I am batting on two runs in 10 balls, in the next five balls, if I hit two sixes, it will be covered. That always stays in my mind".

India needs to get a grip on handling the finger spinners

Dhruva Prasad
AHMEDABAD

Even as India ended its T20 World Cup group stage with a 17-run win over the Netherlands here on Wednesday, there was an unease despite the defending champion's unbeaten run.

India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate admitted that the team's vulnerability to finger-spin is an area it needs to address.

"It is something we will have to focus on given the amount of finger-spin we will face in the next three games. It will be important to dominate that phase of the game," he said.

Keshav Maharaj, Aiden

Markram, Sikandar Raza, Akeal Hoseni and Roston Chase are some of the finger-spinners India will be up against in the Super Eight.

India has lost 15 of its 31 wickets in this tournament to finger-spinners and has the second-lowest average (16.4) against them. Its run rate against finger-spin is 7.23, the lowest among the Test-playing nations in the competition.

"The wickets we played bilateral series on, over the last 18 months, have been really good. As soon as you come to a surface that offers a bit of hold, it becomes a bit of a challenge," said ten Doeschate.



Oh, no! Abhishek castled by Aryan in the Netherlands game. VIJAY SONEJI

Karnataka through to final as match meanders to a draw

The game is called off after 14 overs in the final session on the fifth day; Avneesh, Saurabh and Abhay excel with half-centuries for Uttarakhand; the summit clash will be played in Hubballi

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
LUCKNOW

For a brief while around tea break on the final day of the Ranji Trophy semifinal at the Ekana Cricket Stadium here, Karnataka players resembled a pack of moody school children who were denied their favourite toy.

Uttarakhand was 184 for six in pursuit of 827, an impossible target Karnataka had set in the morning. The latter, having secured the first-innings lead, was in no need of an outright win. A handshake was initiated and out came the presentation flex boards, only for the umpires to turn into strict parents and not call off play.

The officials reckoned that Karnataka could force a victory, an act the eight-time champion was least interested in. This attitude showed in how player after player, both young and the experienced, had multiple exchanges with the on-field custodians.

It was only after 14 overs of action – rather inaction – in the final session that Karnataka's passage to the summit clash against Jammu & Kashmir was confirmed. For Uttarakhand, three batters scored second-innings half-centuries – Avneesh Sudha (66, 71b, 10x4), Saurabh Rawat



Memorable day: Shreyas reached the 300-wicket milestone in First Class cricket. R.V. MOORTHY

(53 n.o., 114b, 4x4, 2x6) and Abhay Negi (57 n.o., 66b, 5x4, 3x6).

The unbeaten 104-run partnership between Saurabh and Abhay was a decorative bookend to the mountain State's maiden run to the Ranji last-four.

For Karnataka, leggie Shreyas Gopal (three for 83) reached the 300-wicket milestone in First Class cricket, putting him in a select group of cricketers who have also scored 4,000 runs.

"It's a special feeling to

achieve it in the semifinals and it gives me a lot of confidence going into the title-contest," said the 32-year-old, who has picked up 46 wickets and totalled 442 runs this campaign.

For the championship-decider in Hubballi against J & K starting on February 24, coach Yere Goud was hopeful of skipper Devdutt Padikkal's recovery from a finger injury. The in-form 25-year-old neither batted on Thursday nor fielded.

"He had stitches yesterday [Wednesday] and as a

precautionary measure he didn't bat. By the time he does on the 23rd, he'll probably be fine," Goud said.

The scores: Karnataka — 1st innings: 736. Uttarakhand — 1st innings: 233.

Karnataka — 2nd innings: Mayank Agarwal c Saurabh b Abhay 21, Kruthik Krishna lbw b Avneesh 52, Shreyas Gopal lbw b Mayank 0, Karun Nair c Suchith b Abhay 8, R. Smaran c Raichandani b Suchith 127, K.L. Rahul (not out) 86, Vidyadhar Patil c Aditya b Mayank 7, V. Vyshak st. Saurabh b Mayank 0, Shikhar Shetty b Mayank Mishra 7, Prasad Krishna (run out) 0, Devdutt Padikkal (absent hurt); Extras (b-8, lb-2, nb-4, w-1): 15; Total (in 74.3 overs): 323.

Fall of wickets: 1-39, 2-40, 3-59, 4-122, 5-290, 6-299, 7-299, 8-316, 9-323.

Uttarakhand bowling: Abhay 19-9-63-2, Janmejay 9-0-54-0, Mayank 18-3-69-4, Avneesh 12-1-50-1, Suchith 12-0-59-1, Aditya 3-3-0-15-0, Raichandani 1-0-3-0.

Uttarakhand — 2nd innings: Bhupen Lalwani c Kruthik b Prasad 15, Prashant Chopra c Kruthik b Vyshak 0, Avneesh Sudha c Rahul b Shreyas 66, Lakshya Raichandani c Kruthik b Prasad 10, J. Suchith c sub (Aneesh) b Shreyas 19, Saurabh Rawat (not out) 53, Kunal Chandela st. Kruthik b Shreyas 20, Abhay Negi (not out) 57; Extras (b-12, lb-2, w-6): 20; Total (for six wickets in 62 overs): 260.

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-48, 3-72, 4-107, 5-128, 6-156.

Karnataka bowling: Vidyadhar 4-0-13-0, Vyshak 4-0-22-1, Shikhar 25-1-97-0, Prasad 6-1-17-2, Shreyas 19-1-83-3, Karun 2-0-9-0, Mayank 2-0-5-0.



Plenty of promise: The 17-year-old Raichandani was impressive in the semifinal. R.V. MOORTHY

Overall, it was a very good journey for us: coach Jha

N. Sudarshan
LUCKNOW

Once Karnataka made a mammoth 736 in the first innings of its Ranji Trophy semifinal, it was clear that Uttarakhand was on the mat. And as it turned out, Devdutt Padikkal & Co. progressed by virtue of a massive 503-run first-innings lead.

While these huge numbers are indicative of the gulf in class, it would be harsh to judge Uttarakhand based on these figures alone.

The hill State became a First Class team only in 2018-19, and has steadily improved, reaching the last-eight thrice, before its maiden run to the semifinals this edition.

"Overall, it was a very good journey for us," head coach Manish Jha told re-

porters on Thursday. "We had to break that [quarter-final] barrier and reach the semifinals, and we did that. "Unfortunately, we couldn't deliver here. We didn't take wickets in the first session on day one. We dropped catches and couldn't capitalise. But for our players it was an amazing run."

Jha stated that it was a shift in mindset that helped break the quarterfinal jinx.

"When we approached the quarterfinal this time, we treated it as just another game. Last three times, we got carried away by the emotions of reaching there after defeating big teams.

"This time, the team was calm in the dressing room and that's why we were able to beat Jharkhand easily [by an innings

and six runs]."

It is noteworthy that Uttarakhand left-arm spinner Mayank Mishra is the top wicket-taker this Ranji season (59 scalps) and skipper Kunal Chandela is the eighth-best run-getter (741). Apart from these, Jha pointed to the rise of youngsters as a big positive.

"Someone like 17-year-old Lakshya Raichandani facing India Test bowlers [Prasad Krishna] and scoring runs [55 in the first innings] and 18-year-old Aditya Rawat taking wickets (four for 154 in the first essay) show they can also dream of playing at a high level.

"This is a State that doesn't have a lot of exposure. So to see players coming to this stage, being calm and delivering was great."

Italian teenager Cini knocks out Nagal

Sports Bureau

Sumit Nagal was knocked out in the second round of the ATP Delhi Open on Thursday after being outplayed by 18-year-old Italian Federico Cini at the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association Complex. The 28-year-old lost 4-6, 4-6 in one hour and 40 minutes.

"I am very happy about this win," said Cini, who couldn't make it past the qualifying stage of the 2025 US Open and 2026 Australian Open.

"Nagal is a tough player. He was also playing at home, so it was more difficult. The crowd was getting excited. It was tough, but I served well in the final game."

The results: Singles (second round): Rei Sakamoto (Jpn) bt Alastair Gray (GBR) 1-6, 6-4, 6-4; Jay Clarke (GBR) bt Alexandr Binda (Ita) 6-4, 6-4; Oliver Crawford (GBR) bt Ilya Ivashka 6-1, 6-4; Federico Cini (Ita) bt Sumit Nagal (Ind) 6-4, 6-4; Michael Geerts (Bel) bt Daniel Michalski (Pol) 7-6(8), 6-4; Rio Noguchi (Jpn) bt Dimitar Kuzmanov (Bul) 6-2, 6-3; Felix Gill (GBR) bt Petr Bar Biryukov 6-3, 7-6(3); Stefanos Sakellariadis (Gre) bt Beibit Zhukayev (Kaz) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Doubles (first round): Siddhant Bantania (Ind) & Alexander Donski (Bul) bt Francis Casey Alcantara (Phi) & Courtney John Lock (Zim) 6-2, 6-3; Ji Sung Nam (Kor) & Patrik Niklas-Salminen (Fin) bt Dane Sweeney (Aus) & Seita Watanabe (Jpn) 7-6(7), 6-2; Divij Sharan & Karan Singh (Ind) bt Kuzmanov & Denis Yevseyev (Kaz) 7-6(5), 6-4; Luca Castellnuovo (Sui) & Noguchi bt Crawford & Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) 4-1, ret'd.

'Baby AB' Brevis looks to carve out own identity

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

When Dewald Brevis had his first brush with fame by virtue of topping the run-scoring list in the 2022 Under-19 World Cup, the moniker of 'Baby AB' seemed a natural fit for the South African. A 360 degree repertoire of strokes and razor-sharp reflexes on the field were striking similarities between the youngster from Johannesburg and A.B. de Villiers.

The sky-high expectations may have done a disservice as Brevis wasn't immune to the roller-coaster of life. However, the penny seemed to drop in 2025 when an unexpected opportunity for Chennai Super Kings midway through the IPL, as a replacement for injured pacer Gurjapneet Singh, knocked on the door. He made an instant impact with his clean striking for the yellow brigade, and subsequently earned his Test and ODI debuts as well as a recall into South Africa's T20I set-up.

Back in the sub-continent for his maiden T20 World Cup, the 22-year-old, described as South



All-round star: Brevis, who has a repertoire of strokes, is enjoying his maiden T20 World Cup. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Africa's X-factor by consultant Albie Morkel, is at ease in his own skin.

"It's always been a big privilege for me to be compared with AB. But I've never felt a drop of pressure with that. And yeah, I really enjoy being here," Brevis told the media after his 25-ball 36 against the UAE at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

How has the IPL experience helped? "In the IPL, I feel the wickets are a bit flatter to be honest," he

said. "I've grown to be the player I've become. It's totally Dewald's journey."

Up next for South Africa is a joust against India in the Super Eight Stage on Sunday. Asked how he would look to tackle the mystery spin of Varun Chakaravathy, Brevis' response reflected his uncluttered mind.

"He's a spin bowler. So I will play him like a spinner and watch the ball and react," was his matter-of-fact reply!

Arsenal blows two-goal lead in damaging Wolves draw

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
WOLVERHAMPTON

Arsenal's Premier League title challenge suffered a major blow as it squandered a two-goal lead and conceded a stoppage-time equaliser in a damaging 2-2 draw at rock-bottom Wolves on Wednesday.

Mikel Arteta's side was on course to move seven points clear at the top after Bukayo Saka's early opener and Piero Hincapie's second-half strike put it in control at Molineux.

But Arsenal collapsed in the closing stages as Hugo Bueno reduced the deficit before Riccardo Calafiori turned Tom Edozie's shot into his own net in the final seconds after a mix-up between goalkeeper David Raya and centre-back Gabriel Magalhaes, to leave the visitor shell-shocked.

For a second successive



Heartbreak: Arsenal's Calafiori turns the ball into his own net as Wolves eke out a draw. REUTERS

league game, the Gunners had failed to hold onto a lead following their 1-1 draw at Brentford last Thursday.

Renewed hope

Failing to kill off bottom of the table Wolves was a devastating setback for Arsenal, which has won just two of its last seven league matches, offering renewed hope to second-placed

Manchester City in the title race. City is just five points behind Arsenal and has a game in hand on its rival, as well as a home game against the Gunners in April.

Arsenal looked increasingly nervous as the minutes ticked down against Wolves in a clear sign the league leader is feeling the pressure of its bid for a first

English title since 2004.

Adding to Arteta's anxiety, Saka was forced off in the second half with a possible knee injury.

Young Argentina forward Nico Paz continued his hot form for Como with his ninth goal of the season in a 1-1 draw at AC Milan on Wednesday which prevented the rossoneri from making significant inroads into Inter Milan's Serie A lead.

Former Real Madrid player Paz has also mustered six assists in his 25 league matches this season.

Villarreal edged past Levante 1-0 on Wednesday in LaLiga to open up a three-point gap above Atletico Madrid as it looks to consolidate third place.

The results: Premier League: Wolves 2 (Bueno 61, Calafiori 90+4-og) drew with Arsenal 2 (Saka 5, Hincapie 56).

Serie A: AC Milan 1 (Leao 64) drew with Como 1 (Paz 32).

LaLiga: Levante 0 lost to Villarreal 1 (Mikautadze 57).



Arteta. AFP

Incredibly disappointed: Arteta

Agence France-Presse
WOLVERHAMPTON

Mikel Arteta admitted Arsenal deserve criticism for the self-inflicted wounds that threaten to ruin its Premier League title bid.

"Incredibly disappointed. We need to accept it. We need to be critical of ourselves because it was not good enough," Arteta said.

"In the league, it is the reality that we have not been consistent over the last few months."

Having wasted commanding leads in two previous title fights with Manchester City, Arteta's men are in danger of being haunted by the ghost of their past failures.

The north Londoners have dropped 11 points in eight league games in 2026.

LIVE TELECAST

Women's Rising Stars Asia Cup: India-A vs Sri Lanka-A, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 8 a.m.; Sony Sports Ten 3 & LIV, 12.30 p.m.

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m.

ISL: FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)

Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)

LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Slot says Isak is in 'final stages of rehab', could return by March-end



Slot. REUTERS

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Liverpool manager Arne Slot said on Thursday he believes striker Alexander Isak is in the "final stages of rehab" and could return by the end of next month to bolster the Reds' push for Champions League qualification.

"Alex has been on the

pitch, not with his football boots but with his running shoes for the first time this week," Slot said. "The next step is doing work with the ball, which every player likes most, then the next step is to come into the group and then it takes a while before you're ready."

Isak is one of five Liverpool first-team players currently sidelined.



Setting the pace: Russell clocked 1:33.459 in the afternoon session, surpassing Piastri's 1:33.739 achieved in the morning. AFP

Associated Press
SAKHIR

Mercedes driver George Russell was fastest on the first day of Formula One's final testing event ahead of the new season, edging McLaren's Oscar Piastri and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc on Wednesday.

In the afternoon session, Russell clocked 1:33.459, surpassing Piastri's 1:33.739 achieved in the morning. Leclerc finished 0.28 behind the leader.

"Overall, it has been a

productive day," Piastri said.

"My running in the afternoon felt solid and we made good progress. I am feeling more comfortable with each lap, so I am looking forward to getting back out on the track tomorrow afternoon."

World champion Lando Norris was half a second back in fourth place.

It is the second three-day testing event to be held in Bahrain this year ahead of the opening race of the season in Australia next month.

Sport



Happy bunch: The smiles were back on the Australians' faces on Thursday. CRICKET.COM.AU

Voll, Mooney star as Australia levels series

India, which makes a sparkling start to the chase, thanks to Shafali's early fireworks, crumbles in the end; Gardner scalps three for the home team

INDIA IN AUSTRALIA

Press Trust of India
CANNBERRA

A record opening stand between Georgia Voll and Beth Mooney paved the way for Australia to level the three-match T20I series with a 19-run victory against India in the second game here on Thursday.

Voll and Mooney added 128 runs for the first wicket to register Australia's highest opening stand against India in T20Is, with the hosts posting 163 for five.

Voll and Mooney bettered the record of 115 set by the pair of Alyssa Healy and Mooney in March 2020 at Melbourne.

India, despite making a sparkling start to the chase, crumbled in the end to finish at 144 for nine. Ashleigh Gardner claimed three for 22, while Kim Garth, Annabel Sutherland and Australia captain Sophie Molineux took two wickets each.

Decider on Saturday
The series-deciding third T20I will be played at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday.

India was 65 for one in the ninth over when its slide began. The visitors lost six wickets for seven runs towards the end.

India was off the blocks quickly as Shafali Verma's fireworks was followed by Smriti Mandhana opening up. They added 54 in the PowerPlay.

But Molineux applied the brakes when she pinned Shafali leg-before and Gardner got the key wicket of Jemimah Rodrigues. A third followed soon when Smriti was caught sharply down the leg by Mooney off Garth.

With India struggling at 71 for three, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (30) and Richa Ghosh (19) joined forces and did well to add 55 for the fourth wicket. However, the asking rate kept moving up forcing the Indians to take unwanted risks.

The scores: Australia Women 163/5 in 20 overs (Georgia Voll 88, Beth Mooney 46, Arundhati Reddy 2/30) bt India Women 144/9 (Harmanpreet Kaur 36, Ashleigh Gardner 3/22).
Toss: India; **PoM:** Voll.

Harmanpreet becomes most capped player in women's internationals

ANI
CANNBERRA

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has become the most capped player in women's international cricket history, achieving the milestone in the second T20I against Australia, here on Thursday.

By taking the field in her 356th international match, Harmanpreet surpassed New Zealand legend Suzie Bates. Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry (349) is third in the list.

Former India skipper Mithali Raj (333), Charlotte Edwards (309), Sophie Devine (305), Heather Knight (303), and Danni Wyatt-Hodge (302) follow in that order.

"It's a great achievement for me.

"Hopefully, I'll keep doing the hard work for the team and keep playing as much as I can," said Harmanpreet.



Harmanpreet.
FILE PHOTO: EMMANUEL YOGINI

Bodo/Glimt stuns Inter; Gordon hits four in Newcastle's big win; Brugge holds Atletico

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Norway's Bodo/Glimt stunned Inter Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday, beating last season's runners-up 3-1 in the first leg of their knockout phase play-off tie after Anthony Gordon scored four as Newcastle United hammered Qarabag 6-1 in Azerbaijan.

Bodo/Glimt, Norwegian champion in four of the last six years, made it to this stage after some impressive results during the league phase, including wins at home to Manchester City and away to Atletico in its last two games.



Opening the floodgates: Gordon draws first blood for Newcastle against Qarabag, AFP

The club was therefore not afraid of the current Serie A leader and went in front on 20 minutes through Sondre Brunstad Fet. Francesco Pio Esposito equalised on the half-hour mark for Inter, the goal standing after a VAR check despite an apparent

handball in the build-up. However, Bodo/Glimt went back in front just after the hour when Kasper Høgh's brilliant lay-off set up Jens Petter Hauge to score, and Høgh found the net himself three minutes later. Newcastle made short work of Qarabag on

its long trip to Baku, with the outstanding Gordon netting two penalties among his four goals on the night — he now has 10 goals in nine matches in this season's Champions League, a tally bettered only by Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe on 13. In Belgium, Club Brugge came from 2-0 and then 3-2 down to earn a draw with Atletico.

The results:
Qarabag 1 (Jafarguliyev 55) lost to Newcastle 6 (Gordon 3, 32-pen, 34, 45+1-pen, Thiauw 8, Murphy 72); Bodo/Glimt 3 (Brunstad Fet 20, Hauge 61, Høgh 64) bt Inter Milan 1 (Esposito 30).
Club Brugge 3 (Onyedika 52, Tresoldi 60, Tzolis 89) drew with Atletico Madrid 3 (Alvarez 8-pen, Lookman 45+4, Ordonez 79-og).
Olympiacos 0 lost to Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Schick 60, 63).

Mumbai City profits from Kotal's lapse

ISL

S. Shrivathsan
MUMBAI

It is not for nothing that the legendary Johan Cruyff once preached: "Playing football is simple but playing simple football is difficult."

Chennaiyin FC (CFC) learnt that lesson the hard way in its Indian Super League (ISL) season-opener as a momentary lapse of concentration led to a 0-1 defeat to Mumbai City FC (MCFC) here on Thursday. Pritam Kotal was the only player who rippled the right side of the net at the Mumbai Football Arena, but it was his rivals who left the field smiling.



Jumping for joy: Mumbai City players are over the moon after Kotal's own goal. X@IndSuperLeague

Unfortunately for CFC's co-captain, he left the door wide open for MCFC with his own goal, on a night when the host struggled to unlock the visitor's defence. Kotal would have been both hurting and

fuming at the conclusion of the contest, considering that he turned the ball in off a harmless delivery in the 49th minute. Joni Kauko earned what was a lucky assist when the CFC centre-back, despite being

unchallenged in the area, diverted it in.

While CFC threw everything it had to level the score, MCFC weathered a mini storm at the end to kick off its campaign on the best possible note.

Overall, both teams were anything but clinical, and their rustiness was there for everyone to see in the opening period. Misplaced passes, stop-start action and speculative drives from long ranges formed the core of the goalless first half. In the end, it was a fatal mistake that decided the clash which yearned for attacking quality.

The result: Mumbai City FC 1 (Pritam Kotal 49-og) bt Chennaiyin FC 0.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Office:- Engineer-in-Chief/ P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana.)
CIN : U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
Tender Enquiry no. 09/CE/P&M/2025-26

EIC/P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites e-Tender for Manufacture, testing, supply and delivery of Single-Phase Relay Test Sets. For detailed NIT & Tender specifications please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 20.02.2026 (11:00 hrs) onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

C258/26 1079/12/2025-26/8538

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (PROJECT BRANCH)

ADVERTISEMENT
Department of Water Resources, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh invites applications from Indian National for the Two post of Members of the Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority (PWRDA) under section 3 of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020 and section 2 of the Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2025. The last date for submission of application will be 16.03.2026.

For detailed advertisement and information regarding qualification, experience and other details kindly visit Website <https://irrigation.punjab.gov.in> -> Recruitment.

Note:- The applicants who applied earlier in lieu of the advertisement dated 22.11.2025 for said post, those applicants need not to apply again.

Dated, Chandigarh 18-02-2026
Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Water Resources.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No: U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact number 9646118721)

Tender Enquiry No. QW-338/PO-W Dated 18.02.2026
Chief Engineer/Stores & Workshops Organization, Sarabha Nagar, PSPCL, Ludhiana, invites e-tender of Repair of 3-phase, 50 cycles, outdoor type, oil immersed, naturally cooled, Stack core type construction, OWP Aluminium Wound Distribution Transformers (Type Conventional) of capacity 16 KVA with voltage ratio 11/0.433 KV conforming to ISS: 2026 (with latest amendments, if any) and 1180 part-1 (2014) complete with a first filling of oil conforming to ISS: 335/1993 (with latest amendments, if any)

Quantity = 15000 Nos.

For detailed NIT & tenders specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 18.02.2026 from 4.00 P.M. onwards.

NOTE:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C252/26 1079/12/2025-26/8529

MAHARASHTRA JEEVAN PRADHIKARAN
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 68 FOR 2025-26

"Under Maharashtra Suvarna Jayanti Nagarothan Maha-Abhiyan Program, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran Water Management Division, Ambernath invites e-tender for the work of "Augmentation to Kulgaon Badlapur Water Supply Scheme, Tal. Ambernath" valued at Rs. 183,17,03,110/- (One hundred eighty three crore seventeen lakh three thousand one hundred and ten only) The E-Tender Details are available on www.mahatenders.gov.in from dated 20/02/2026.

All relevant date will be as per the tender Published on web portal www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Place: Ambernath Sd/-
Date: 16/02/2026 Executive Engineer,
DGIPR/2025-2026/6008 M.J.P.W.M. Division Ambernath

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
इसरो प्रोपल्शन कॉम्प्लेक्स ISRO PROPULSION COMPLEX
इसरो प्रोपल्शन कॉम्प्लेक्स MAHENDRAGIRI PO
महेंद्रगिरि पो ओ MAHENDRAGIRI PO
तिरुनेलवेली जिला TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT- 627 133
तमिलनाडु TAMILNADU.
क्रय एवं भंडार प्रभाग PURCHASE & STORES DIVISION

अभिलेखित अभियंता आमंत्रित सूचना सं.: आईपीआरसी/आएस्टीई/सीएफएसडी/ईओआई/01/2026
Notice Inviting Expression of Interest No.: IPRC/ESTE/CFSD/EOI/01/2026

सं.प्र.क्र.भं./आईपीआरसी/आईएस्टीई/सीएफएसडी/ईओआई/01/2026 दिनांक: 19 फरवरी 2026
Ref. HPS/IPRC/ESTE/CFSD/EOI/01/2026 Date: 19th February 2026

भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए तथा उनकी ओर से, इसरो प्रोपल्शन कॉम्प्लेक्स (आईपीआरसी), महेंद्रगिरि के प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार, आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि, तमिलनाडु, भारत में द्रव मोधेन उत्पादन संयंत्र (एलएमपीओ) की स्थापना के लिए योग्य विक्रेताओं से अभिलेखित (ईओआई) आमंत्रित करते हैं।

For and on behalf of the President of India, Head, Purchase & Stores, ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri invites "Expression of Interest (EOI) from capable vendors for "Establishment of Liquid Methane Production Plant (LMPP)" at IPRC, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, India.

परियोजना का संक्षिप्त विवरण सहित अभिलेखित प्रारंभ-1, 2, 3 और 4 इसरो की वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in, www.iprc.gov.in और सीपीओ पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध हैं।
A brief scope of the Project along with EOI - Form 1, 2, 3 & 4 is available in ISRO website www.isro.gov.in, www.iprc.gov.in and CPP portal.

इच्छुक विक्रेता दस्तावेज डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं और निर्धारित तिथि और समय से पहले अर्थात् 07.04.2026 (भा.मा.स. 1600 बजे) तक सोलवेंट लिफाफे में अपना विस्तृत अभिलेखित अभिलेखित अधोहस्ताक्षरों को प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। अपना अभिलेखित अभिलेखित प्रस्तुत करते समय, लिफाफे पर उपरोक्त संदर्भ संख्या और निम्नलिखित अवश्य लिखें।
Interested vendors may download the documents and submit detailed EOI to the undersigned on or before due date and time i.e., 07.04.2026 (16.00 Hrs. IST) in sealed cover. While submitting your EOI, super-scribe the above-mentioned Reference No. and due date on the envelope.

इस अभिलेखित को अभिलेखित के प्रकार के बाद जारी किया गया कोई भी शुद्धि हमारी वेबसाइट पर डाला जाएगा। आप निर्धारित रूप से साइट का अवलोकन कर सकते हैं।
Corrigendum if any, issued after publication of this Expression of Interest, will be hosted in our website. You may visit the site regularly.

हस्ताक्षरित/ Sd/-
प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार, आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि
Head, Purchase & Stores, IPRC, Mahendragiri
फोन सं./ Phone No.: 04637-281599 / 04637-281553
E-mail ID - na_priya@iprc.gov.in / psgroup2@iprc.gov.in

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (2nd Call) (Only through KPP Portal)
BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible tenderers for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender
		EMD
		Date: 18.02.2026
1.	Work of Construction of pump house and supply, installation and commissioning of HSC pump set and its allied Works at CLR pump house premises coming under AEE (BW&PS)-2-1 Sub-division.	Rs. 3,92,94,684/- Rs. 5,89,500/-
		Date: 18.02.2026
2.	Work of supply, erection, and commissioning of EOT crane, up-gradation and renovation of various pump house in South Zone coming under the AEE(BW&PS)-2-3 Sub-division.	Rs. 1,20,13,365/- Rs. 1,81,000/-
		Date: 18.02.2026
3.	Work of construction of the pump house monitor room at Madhavan Park pump house premises and allied works coming under AEE(BW&PS)-2-2 Sub-division.	Rs. 1,40,40,349/- Rs. 2,10,600/-
		Date: 18.02.2026
4.	Estimate for deploying Manpower (Drivers) to Board vehicles maintained under Executive Engineer (Design) Division for a period of 12 months.	Rs. 1,93,68,168/- Rs. 2,91,000/-
		Date: 18.02.2026

Last date & time for receipt of tenders: 05.03.2026 upto 16:00Hrs. The Tenders will be opened on: 06.03.2026 at 16:00Hrs.

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA/5309/2025-26 Date: 18.02.2026

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA/5310/2025-26 Date: 18.02.2026

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA/5311/2025-26 Date: 18.02.2026

Last date & time for receipt of tenders: 05.03.2026 upto 16:00Hrs. The Technical Tenders will be opened on: 06.03.2026 after 16:00Hrs. Sd/- Chief Engineer(Design & QA).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/5742/2025-26

ईओ प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल धनबाद
अति अल्पकालीन ईओ प्रोक्यूरमेंट नोटिस
ई-टेंडर रेफरेंस नं 07/2025-26/EE/BCD/DHANBAD

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	प्राकल्पित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रिम की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य (रु० में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	Renovation and New Construction Work for Girls High School, Gomoh, Dhanbad.	4,53,83,800.00	4,54,000.00	10,000.00	15 माह।
2	New Construction, Renovation Work in Utkramik Uchya Vidyalaya, Dumdum under Topchanchi Block, Dhanbad.	4,56,15,700.00	4,57,000.00	10,000.00	15 माह।
3	Renovation and Construction Work for Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Baliapur, Dist. Dhanbad.	4,11,71,400.00	4,12,000.00	10,000.00	15 माह।
4	Construction and Renovation of Jharkhand Awasiya Balika Vidyalaya Purvi Tundi Dhanbad, Jharkhand	3,72,55,900.00	3,73,000.00	10,000.00	14 माह।
5	Construction and Renovation of KGBV Bagnuma, Govindpur, Dhanbad.	4,97,30,500.00	4,98,000.00	10,000.00	15 माह।
6	Construction and Renovation of Ultramit +2 High School Birajpur Govindpur, Dhanbad.	4,36,48,400.00	4,37,000.00	10,000.00	15 माह।
7	Construction and Renovation of N.N. High School Bagnuma, Dhanbad.	4,99,83,200.00	5,00,000.00	10,000.00	15 माह।
8	Construction of 100 Bedded Hostel in Umme Salma Urdu Girls High School Firdos Nagar Alpsankhayak Girls Hostel at Topchanchi Dhanbad.	4,53,72,000.00	4,54,000.00	10,000.00	15 माह।

1. वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 25.02.2026 11:00 बजे
2. वेबसाइट में निविदा डालने की अंतिम तिथि/समय 12.03.2026 11:00 बजे
3. निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता - कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि/समय एवं स्थान - 13.03.2026 11:30 बजे नोडल पदाधिकारी, ईओ प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची।
5. प्रोक्यूरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या 9973309316
6. ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन संख्या 7488650243
7. परिमाण विवरण की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रिम की राशि देय होगी।
8. सूचना प्रोक्यूरमेंट एवं ई-गवर्नेंस विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के आदेश ज्ञापक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के द्वारा निर्गत SOP (मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया) एवं भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के पत्रक 2229 दिनांक 06.10.2023 के आलोक में निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रिम की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रिम की राशि का ई-मुद्रानत जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, SOP के तहत अग्रिम की राशि उसी खाते में वापसी होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी संपूर्ण जवाबदारी निविदादाता की होगी।

अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के बदलाव की सूचना <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।
Note :- UCAN Registration is mandatory for the Bidders कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, धनबाद
PR 373215 Building(25-26)#D

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 11 Dated: 19.02.2026
Tenders (Pre-qualification and or (Commercial offers) through e-procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services/ Equipment:

Tender Nos. as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipment	Tender Value in Crores Rs. (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @ 17:00 Hrs.
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0267	Procurement of Black Rexine for Ashwamedha Vehicle	0.47	18/03/2026
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0268	Procurement of Hubs and Break Drums	4.00	18/03/2026
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0269	Procurement of Cylinder Liners	2.50	18/03/2026
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0270	Procurement of MS Welding Electrodes and CO2 MIG Coils	0.60	18/03/2026
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0272	Procurement of DEF Dispensing System to Depot of KSRTC	0.49	18/03/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER

KSRTC/2025-26/SE2325	Engaging an agency for providing Driver Services on contract basis for various divisions of KSRTC	18.19	27/02/2026
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0271	Selection of Vendor for supply and maintenance of Front Dash Camera and Saloon Camera	5.00	24/02/2026

NOTE:- Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-46010000/080-68948777). Interested bidders may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to support@eproc.kppp.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org. (Contact: 7760990224).

Sd/-
Controller of Stores & Purchases
(Tender Inviting Authority)
DIPR/CP/IA/5742/2025-26

TVS *Racing*

TVS 

Apache

RTR SERIES

— #RacingDNAUnleashed—

INDIA'S MOST POWERFUL* 160cc

NOW WITH CLASS-LEADING PROJECTOR HEADLAMP



STARTS @ **₹ 1.02 L**** | 5" CONNECTED TFT | TRACTION CONTROL SYSTEM | ASSIST & SLIPPER CLUTCH

CELEBRATORY OFFER | SAVINGS UP TO **₹ 20 000*** | DOWN PAYMENT **₹ 9 999*** | **0%*** PROCESSING FEE | ROI **5.99%***



SCAN TO KNOW MORE

*Best-in-class power in Air/Oil cooled 160cc class as per ARAI certification | **Ex showroom price of Apache RTR 160 Black Edition | *Applicable on 5.99% ROI scheme | ^Schemes are at the sole discretion of the financier-T&C Apply.

TVSCREDIT | **HINDULJA LEVLANO FINANCE** | **IDFC FIRST Bank** | **SHRIRAM Finance** | **L&T Finance** | **HDFC BANK** | **FOR ALL INSTITUTIONAL/BULK REQUIREMENTS PLEASE MAIL** corporatecustomersupport@tvsmotor.com. **Authorised Main Dealer:** ANJALI TVS
 KARKHANA: 9550001806, RAMCOR TVS, MALAKPET: 9063495741, CHANDRAYANGUTTA: 9866227227, AMBERPET: 8501965547, SHANTHI TVS, HIMAYAT NAGAR: 9246216808, VIDYANAGAR: 8886441002, BHARKATHPURA: 8374223152, SITHAPHALMANDI: 9640406808, ANTARIKSH TVS, TOLICHOWKI, MEHDIPATNAM, MANIKONDA: 7417414500, MSA TVS, LAKDIKAPOL: 9000337444, ONE TVS BAHADURPUR, ATTAPUR, HABSIGUDA, NACHRAM, TANDUR: 9988189999, VAJRA TVS KOMPALLY :9133241333 ,ADARSHA TVS MALKAJGIRI:7386746633,KARMANGHAT- 7386746633,SUSHEEL TVS, KUKATPALLY: 9962948013, SR NAGAR: 7358717261, NIZAMPET: 9100053940, SURARAM: 910053943, SRI LV TVS, VANASTALIPURAM: 9069138225, BHONGIRI: 9247023387, NANESH TVS, BOWENPALLY: 9391000046, CHINTAL: 9390114974, BEGUMBAZAR: 9281476006, SHAPUR: 9591727200, SREE TULASI TVS, AS RAO NAGAR: 8498090744, MOULA-ALI: 8498090744, NAGARAM: 8498090744, SR TVS, VIKARABAD: 9069138214, DURGA TVS, SANGAREDDY, SIDDIKET, MEDAK: 9069138247, YUVAAN TVS, LB NAGAR - CHAMPAPET: 9573656291, ARJUN TVS, RC PURAM: 8977746172/73, LANDMARK TVS, GACHIBOWLI, SUNCITY, KONDAPUR, SHADNAGAR: 9015255555, ABHINAV TVS, SERELINGAMPALLY, MADINAGUDA: 9281025400, BACHUPALLY: 9959223398,9591727200, JAGATHGIRIGUTTA:9247719635, BALKAMPET: 9848998000, GANDIMAISAMMA: 9705124642, MIYAPUR: 9440037224, ALWAL: 9298550777, RAMAYAMPET: 8790754666, NARSAPUR: 9885621517, SADASHIVPET: 9000282846, ZAHERABAD: 9069138247, MEDAK: 9490796981, KEESARA: 8463944795, HAYATHNAGAR: 9703244558, TURKAMJYAL: 9705691134, BN REDDY NAGAR: 9346434684, BIBINAGAR: 9849821905, BALAPUR: 7306230125, MALL: 9494259549, IBRAHIMPATNAM: 9912118124, CHOUTUPPAL: 9494259549, ABDULLAPURMET: 9160305999 ANANDBAGH: 9246295333, AMANGAL: 8639627727.

India's perfect record has been tempered by indifferent form

Though Kishan's hitting has been a revelation, most of his batting colleagues haven't been as free-spirited; Abhishek has suffered the ignominy of falling for a duck thrice; the co-host's scores are a tribute to the ability to accelerate in the second half even when the first period has been singularly demanding



R. Kaushik
AHMEDABAD

Four wins out of four, all achieved with a fair degree of comfort. Several tight spots, negotiated with common sense and intelligence, if not panache and outright flair. Numerous batters stepping up, several bowlers weighing in.

If that alone was what India's progress card said at the end of their league campaign in the T20 World Cup, everything would have gone swimmingly. But even though Suryakumar Yadav's men have taken their appointed place in the Super Eight, they haven't been the dominant force of the last several months, which in a way is understandable.

The pressures and pulls of a World Cup are vastly different from those of bilateral faceoffs, even continental flagship competitions. This is the tournament the players wait for for two years; for many, it could be a first experience of a global event. Everyone is focused on being the best version of themselves; in that endeavour, there can sometimes be a subconscious holding back, unless one answers to the name of Ishan Kishan.

Great going

The proverbial last-minute addition to the Indian 15, and then the 11, the tiny left-hander has been mercurial as ever, which is just as well because most of the rest of his batting colleagues haven't been as free-spirited as they have earned the reputation of being.

Shivam Dube has been a notable exception in the middle-order and Hardik Pandya has threatened without hitting top gear, but the other batters have had their problems, including the captain who has tapered off a little after a sensational unbeaten 84 in the opening game against United States when he single-handedly bailed his side out from the depths of 77 for six.

In India's defence, if any defence is needed of an outfit that is 4 and zero in this tournament, is the reality that the pitches on which they have played thus far haven't encouraged their no-holds-barred approach that has allowed them to both entertain the fans and stack up a wonderful record for a long time now.

In Mumbai and Delhi, and in Colombo and Ahmedabad, they have been greeted by tacky, two-paced surfaces which have precluded unfettered ball-bashing. That, despite being well below their best, India have strung together a sequence of 161 for nine, 209 for nine, 175 for seven and 193 for six, all while batting first, is tribute to their strength and depth and the wonderful ability to accelerate in the second half even when the first half has been singularly demanding.

Kishan has been the engine room, especially against Namibia and notably Pakistan, whom he decimated in Colombo. That encounter was perhaps the closest India have come in the last 12 days to the perfect game. The sight of the old foe energised Kishan, who provided the momentum up front despite the first-over dismissal of Abhishek Sharma and Dube then pulling out the heavy artillery towards the end after a mid-innings slump, one of many India have endured since the start of the

tournament. What is a slump, we wonder? Maybe we should ask Abhishek, the tempestuous left-handed opener who has made it a habit of terrorising bowling attacks in the PowerPlay and beyond, but who now is in the middle of such a horrendous patch that he has three ducks on the trot in this World Cup and five zeroes in seven international 20-over innings since the start of 2026.

Abhishek was unstoppable through all of 2025, when he amassed 859 runs from 21 innings at a terrific average of 42.95. One hundred and five fifties, and the average, paled in comparison with a strike-rate of 193.46. He smashed 85 fours and 54 sixes in that period, a murderous beast at the top of the batting tree that left the best in the business quivering in their boots. Abhishek was consistency, class, calmness, authority, intelligence and incandescence rolled in one, India's enforcer who on his own won more than half the battle more than half the time.

Nosedive

The Abhishek of this World Cup bears no resemblance to that dynamic tornado that swept all before him last year. He has only played eight balls in three innings. His tournament started on an ominous note when he was dismissed first ball against United States, caught at deep cover to a well-planned field. It has gone spectacularly south thereafter. A stay in the hospital to weed out a stomach infection which forced him miss the Delhi game against Namibia didn't help, and things went from bad to worse when in his next two outings, he fell in the first over of the contest to off-spin.

Off-spin is being projected as an invaluable,

potentially game-changing weapon against India's left-heavy batting unit, but we shall come to that later. For now, let's stay with Abhishek.

Pakistan have often tended to open the bowling with the off-spin of Saim Ayub – maybe Abhishek should have a word with him, seeing as how the left-handed opener also courted a hat-trick of ducks at the Asia Cup in the UAE in September – but decided to change things up against India to provide a left-field puzzle.

Salman Agha, the skipper, took it upon himself to kick off proceedings and struck paydirt when an overkeen Abhishek sought to pull a ball not short enough and hit it to mid-on off the upper half of the bat. Three nights later at the gigantic Narendra Modi Stadium, Abhishek's cup of woe spilled over when he made room to swipe Aryan Dutt and completely missed a 101 kmph slider from the Dutchman which plucked out his leg-stump.

As he threw his head back – in despair, disappointment, disgust, take your pick – and looked skywards, Abhishek must have been wondering what he had done to displease the cricketing Gods so much. They sat lightly on his shoulders in the lead-up to the World Cup, enjoying a sumptuous cover-drive here, an electric pick-up there. Now, it's as if they have chosen to move on and taken their good wishes away with them.

If he is down in the dumps, as he undoubtedly must be, Abhishek is entitled to feel so. But he can't afford that vacuum for long because the Super Eights are imminent. India kick off their charge against South Africa on Sunday on what is expected to be a better surface for batting at the Modi Stadium.

Chat with the skipper

Things are looking up for Abhishek, the cynics might say, because right now, his batting is lying flat on its back. He continues to enjoy the backing, the support and the love of the team and the management group, who will rally around him without walking on eggshells.

Batters like Abhishek are truly one good hit away from turning things around. Maybe a conversation with Suryakumar will help, because after a disastrous 2025, the skipper has rediscovered his mojo and Abhishek will benefit from learning how Suryakumar was able to rediscover himself.

From an era where India struggled for more than one quality left-hand bat, they now have a host of them in this 15 – Kishan, Abhishek, Tilak Varma, Dube, Rinku Singh, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar (let's discount Kuldeep Yadav and Arshdeep Singh) – which can be a double-edged sword.

The left-handed bat versus the off-spinner is the classic match-up and it can't be denied that India have had their issues with offies. Gerhard Erasmus, the Namibian captain who used the long ball and a slinging action judiciously, took four

for 20 in New Delhi. Over in Colombo, Agha and Ayub combined for four for 35 from six overs. And in Ahmedabad, Dutt ended up with two for 19 from four, including the scalps of Abhishek and Kishan in three overs that went for 17 in the PowerPlay.

Batting coach Sitanshu Kotak on match eve and Player-of-the-Match on Wednesday, Dube, both shrugged off suggestions that off-spin is a bit of a bugbear. "It's nothing," Dube said, minutes after receiving his award. "There is no talk (within the team) because sometimes, it's just about one shot. They start hitting that one shot and there will be no talk about off-spin in coming matches." Bas de Leede, who fronted up for Netherlands after the 17-run loss, revealed that his team had worked out gameplans on the evidence of India's vulnerability against off-spin. Whether perceived or otherwise is something the next two and a half weeks will confirm, but it's unlikely that India's Super Eights opponents wouldn't have taken note of what has transpired so far.

South Africa have a wonderful if much under-rated off-spinner in Aiden Markram, Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza has already troubled India in the past while West Indies will be tempted to bring on Test captain Roston Chase, who has had a limited role with the ball in this competition.

India's left-flush batting order will come with their own ideas on how to dismantle the off-spin threat. One of them will revolve around Abhishek batting at least through the PowerPlay.

Abhishek has looked a million dollars in the nets – he batted fluently for an hour and half, the night before the Netherlands outing – but his trick will be to calm his nerves, to slow down his furiously beating heart, to set desperation aside and to try and replicate the headspace he found himself in in 2025. He, his dressing room and the millions of fans he has stacked up in the year and half since first playing for India will be hoping that Sunday is when he shakes off the cobwebs, sheds the rust and takes a giant leap of faith.

Despite the lackadaisical finish to the Netherlands game when they conceded 58 runs in the last five overs and allowed the seventh-wicket pair of Zach Lyon-Cachet and Noah Croes to put on 47 in a mere 23 deliveries, India's bowling has largely been on point.

Unsurprisingly, Varun Chakaravathy leads the way with nine wickets and an economy of 5.16 from 12 overs, while Jasprit Bumrah has provided enough indications that he is close to his best even though he has only four wickets from nine overs (economy 6.00).

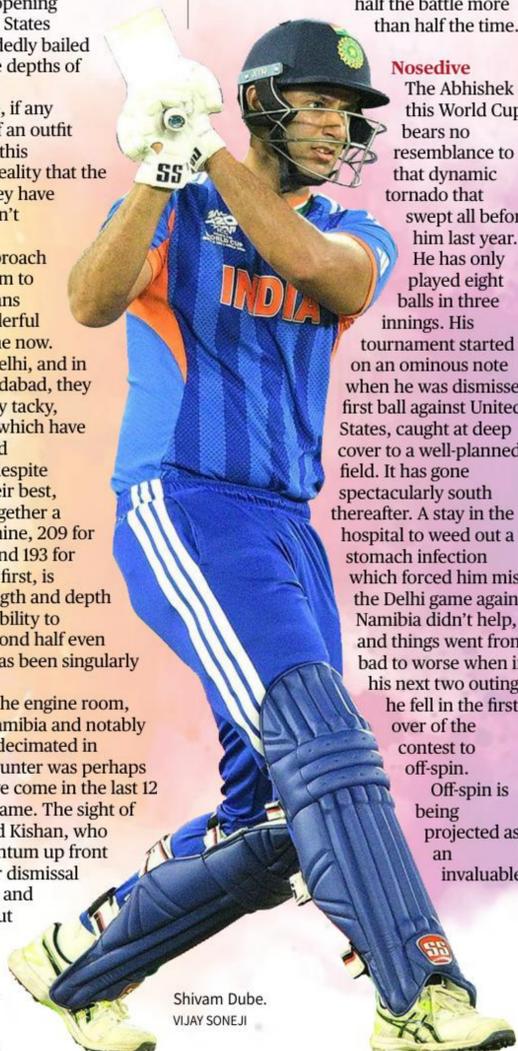
India's catching, however, has left a lot to be desired. They have been lucky that they haven't been punished ruthlessly thus far, but if they continue to be generous over the next 10 days, it could come with a very heavy price.

THE GIST

▼ Dube has been a notable exception in the middle-order and Hardik has threatened without hitting top gear, but the other batters have had their problems

▼ India's bowling has largely been on point with Varun leading the way

▼ The catching has left a lot to be desired and if the spills continue, it could cost the team in the Super Eight



Shivam Dube.
VIJAY SONEJI

Why begin-early mantra is a key prevention strategy in dentistry

Tooth decay is still the most common chronic disease in children worldwide. It's preventable, yet it causes missed school days, pain, and infections; early, simple actions that prevent oral health issues can spare children from trauma, save families money, and build a foundation for lifelong health



Catch them young: In a diverse country like India, some simple, early steps can bridge gaps that fancy clinics can not always reach. GETTY IMAGES

Sowjanya Gunukula

It used to break my heart a little, when parents would bring in their child for the first time to a dentist, usually because of an emergency – a swollen cheek, a visible hole in a tooth, tears of pain. The child's first memory of a dental clinic, therefore, was fear, bright lights, and the sound of a drill. It is how a lot of us grew up thinking dentistry worked: you wait until it hurts, then you fix it. Thankfully, that script is being rewritten.

Getting ahead

In paediatric dentistry today, a quiet revolution is underway. We're realising that waiting for disease to announce itself is a losing battle. Tooth decay doesn't have to be a normal part of childhood. Most of the time, if we get ahead of it, cavities don't stand a chance. We're shifting our energy from repair to prevention, and, honestly, it feels like a win for everyone: from fix-it to fit-in.

Remember your first dental visit? Mine was at five, and I had three cavities. That was pretty standard back then. But by five, a lot of damage can already be done. The advice now is to see a child by their first birthday. I know – it sounds wild. What are we going to do, check gums? Talk about baby food? Exactly. That first visit is a "well-baby check-up" for the mouth. We look at those few new teeth, chat about feeding (that bedtime bottle can be tricky), show parents how to clean

tiny gums, and demystify fluoride. It's not scary – it's a conversation. We might suggest swapping out sticky dried fruit for cheese, or perfecting the angle of a toothbrush. These tiny tweaks? They build a fortress against future problems. This changes the whole story. Dentistry stops being the "scary place you go to when things go wrong" and becomes part of regular health maintenance, like a vaccination.

It's about building trust from the ground up. These gentle, early visits create a powerful new memory: the dentist's office is a normal place. That alone can prevent a lifetime of white-knuckling in the dental chair.

Low tech tools

Our best tools are surprisingly low-tech. The most effective parts of prevention aren't fancy. They're simple, almost humble. Take Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF). It's a liquid we paint on a soft, early cavity. No needle, no drill. It stops the decay in its tracks. Does it stain the spot? Yes, it turns it dark. But for a terrified toddler, or for a family in a rural community without easy clinic access, it's a miracle. It's a pause button that prevents immense pain.

Fluoride varnish is another superstar. It's a quick paint-on treatment at check-ups that strengthens enamel. School programmes love it because it reaches children who might not see a dentist otherwise. And then there's the toothbrush. It sounds obvious, but it's the

Gentle, early visits create a powerful new memory for children: the dentist's office is a normal place. That alone can prevent a lifetime of white-knuckling in the dental chair

MVP. Using a rice-grain smear of fluoride toothpaste for toddlers, and actually watching them brush (not just hearing the water run!) until they're about eight, cuts cavity risk dramatically. This daily, sometimes messy, two-minute habit is the real foundation.

Why this matters

Tooth decay is still the most common chronic disease in children worldwide. It's preventable, yet it causes missed school days, pain, and infections. Where prevention programmes are in place, cavity rates drop. It's that simple.

The money angle is simple, too. Preventing a cavity costs a fraction of fixing one. It saves families from emergency costs, lost work days, and the emotional toll of seeing their child in pain. But it's bigger than teeth. A child with a toothache can't eat well, sleep well, or focus in school. Their whole world shrinks.

Research also keeps finding links between chronic mouth inflammation and other, later, health issues. The mouth is the front door to the body's health.

That is why this is about equity, education, and access. School nurses and community health workers are crucial partners. In a diverse country like India, these simple, early steps can bridge gaps that fancy clinics can't always reach.

This shift is changing my job description. I spend more time teaching and coaching than drilling. I collaborate with paediatricians – because if a child is at the doctor for a checkup, why not quickly check their mouth, too? We're teaming up with teachers and local leaders to make oral health a normal part of the conversation about a child's well-being.

A hopeful look forward

The bottom line is getting clearer: we can prevent most oral health problems. Early, simple actions can spare children from trauma, save families money, and build a foundation for lifelong health. By focusing on prevention, we're not just fixing problems – we're preventing the fear and the financial strain that comes with them. We're giving children the gift of a confident smile and a healthier start.

In the end, it's not just about saving teeth. It's about saving children from ever needing us to fix them in the first place. And that's a future worth smiling about. (Dr. Sowjanya Gunukula is a U.S.-licensed dentist with international training who focuses on preventive and evidence-based oral healthcare and contributes to advancing community and public health dentistry. sowji.gunukula@gmail.com)

THE GIST

▼ Tooth decay does not have to be a normal part of childhood. Most of the time, if we get ahead of the problem, cavities do not stand a chance

▼ Research also keeps finding links between chronic mouth inflammation and other, later, health issues. The mouth is the front door to the body's health. That is why this is about equity, education, and access

▼ By focusing on prevention, we're not just fixing problems – we're preventing the fear and the financial strain that comes with them

HUMERUS



Sleep deprivation and the toll it takes on your brain, body

Athira Elssa Johnson

Fatigue, brain fog, irritability, headaches, and palpitations are not isolated symptoms. Doctors report seeing these especially among young professionals who stay up past midnight juggling project deadlines and household responsibilities, working long shifts, where restorative sleep feels impossible. Over time, this continuous lack of rest gradually alters the brain and body.

A study published in *Nature Neuroscience* helps explain why this happens. Researchers found that when you are sleep-deprived, your attention does not fade simply because you feel tired. Instead, the brain and body begin to shift together: brain activity changes, pupils subtly constrict, blood flow patterns alter, and even the flow of cerebrospinal fluid starts pulsing differently. These changes align with moments when focus slips. Sleep is far more than rest. Karthik Madesh Ratnavelu,



Time for rest: Chronic sleep deprivation impairs frontal brain networks responsible for attention, focus, and decision-making. ISTOCKPHOTO

ENT and head & neck surgeon at SIMS Hospital, Chennai, explains that deep non-REM sleep, or slow-wave sleep (SWS), is the most restorative stage of sleep, happening mainly in the first half of the night, which he describes as "night shift mode" for the brain.

During this phase, the glymphatic system or the brain's waste-clearance network, flushes out metabolic byproducts such as beta-amyloid, excess neurotransmitters, and

proteins. Benhur Joel Shadrach, sleep medicine physician at Rela Hospital, adds that during deep sleep, tiny spaces in the brain expand, letting cerebrospinal fluid flow through Aquaporin-4 channels to clear out toxins and when sleep is disrupted, waste accumulates, glial inflammation increases, and the risk of neurodegenerative diseases rises.

Chronic sleep deprivation impairs frontal brain networks responsible for

attention, focus, and decision-making. Dr. Ratnavelu explains that people may experience micro-sleeps or brief moments of lost awareness. Dr. Shadrach describes this as mental haze, where slowed neural communication and short-term memory lapses reduce comprehension and decision-making ability.

Sleep loss can also disrupt main hormonal systems. Shubha Subramanian, neurologist, Kauvery Hospital, Chennai, explains that the hunger hormone called ghrelin, rises, while leptin, which signals fullness, falls, encouraging nighttime snacking and overeating. Also, the stress hormone – cortisol, stays elevated in the evening, and can worsen anxiety and irritability, whereas the growth hormone and testosterone decrease, slowing tissue repair and reducing energy. Insulin sensitivity too, drops, increasing the risk of weight gain, metabolic syndrome, and type 2 diabetes. Over time, sustained

cortisol and sympathetic nervous system activation strain the heart, raising the likelihood of hypertension, heart attacks, and strokes. Sleep deprivation also affects reproductive hormones and libido, leaving adults more prone to anxiety, irritability, and burnout.

Limits of catch-up sleep Many try to compensate their weekday loss of sleep with longer sleep time during weekends. While this may temporarily reduce fatigue and lower cortisol, it cannot fully erase the effects of lack of sleep, hormonal imbalance, or metabolic disruption. Adults require consistent seven to eight hours of nightly sleep for complete cognitive and physical health.

Experts stress that structured sleep hygiene – consistent sleep-wake times, limiting evening screen exposure, avoiding late caffeine, and prioritising restorative rest are important. (athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of households still waiting for tap water coverage in J&K

3.61 in lakh. The Jammu and Kashmir government said that about 15.6 lakh households across the Union Territory have been provided functional tap water connections under the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission, while 3.61 lakh households are yet to be covered. PTI

People killed in a Nigerian mine due to toxic gas leakage

37 A toxic gas leak at a mine in north-central Nigeria killed 37 people and led to the hospitalisation of 26 others. Preliminary investigation revealed that the miners were affected due to a sudden discharge of lead oxide and other associated gases like sulphur and carbon monoxide. AP

Number of Atal canteens that the Delhi govt. has opened

25 The Delhi government inaugurated Atal Canteens across the national capital as part of a scheme to serve affordable and nutritious meals to the urban poor, labourers and other underprivileged residents. Each canteen will serve approximately 1,000 meals per day. PTI

Funds for integrated horticulture development in Una

4.5 in ₹ crore. The Himachal Pradesh government will spend ₹4.57 crore under the Integrated Horticulture Development Mission for 2026-27 in the Una district. This amount will be spent on promoting fruit production, seedlings distribution, drip and sprinkler irrigation systems etc. PTI

Lives lost to cyclones in Odisha between 2014 and 2025

147 The State suffered damages of ₹19,529 crore. The highest of 73 people were killed by cyclone Titli in 2018, while 68 people lost their lives in cyclone Fani, which hit in 2019, Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us [facebook.com/thehindu](https://www.facebook.com/thehindu) [X.com/the_hindu](https://www.x.com/the_hindu) [instagram.com/the_hindu](https://www.instagram.com/the_hindu)

How do graphics processing units work?

How are GPUs and CPUs different from each other? What are the four steps in rendering pipelines? What is a die? What are matrix and tensor operations? Why are European regulators investigating U.S. technology company Nvidia? How much energy do GPUs need?

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

In 1999, California-based Nvidia Corp. marketed a chip called GeForce 256 as "the world's first GPU". Its purpose was to make videogames run better and look better. In the 2.5 decades since, GPUs have moved from the discretionary world of games and visual effects to becoming part of the core infrastructure of the digital economy.

What is a GPU?

Very simply speaking, a Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) is an extremely powerful number-cruncher. Less simply: a GPU is a kind of computer processor built to perform many simple calculations at the same time. The more familiar Central Processing Unit (CPU) is on the other hand built to perform a smaller number of complicated tasks quickly and to switch between tasks well.

To draw a scene on a computer screen, for instance, the computer must decide the colour of millions of pixels several times every second. A 1920x1080 screen has 2.07 million pixels per frame. At a frame rate of 60 per second, you will be updating more than 120 million pixels per second. Each pixel's colour will also depend on lighting, textures, shadows, and the 'material' of the object. This is an example of a task where the same steps are repeated over and over for many pixels – and GPUs are designed to do this better than CPUs.

Imagine you're a teacher and you need to check the answer papers for an entire school. You can finish it over a few days. But if you have the help of 99 other teachers, each teacher can take a small stack and you can all wrap up in an hour. A GPU is like having hundreds or even thousands of such workers, called cores. While each core won't be as powerful as a CPU core, the GPU has many of them and can thus complete large repetitive workloads faster.

How does a GPU do what it does?

When a videogame wants to show a scene, it sends the GPU a list of objects described using triangles (most 3D models are broken down into triangles). The GPU then runs a sequence called a rendering pipeline, consisting of four steps.

Vertex processing: The GPU first processes the vertices of each triangle to figure out where they should appear on the screen. This process involves using maths with matrices to rotate objects, move them, and apply the camera's perspective.

Rasterisation: After the GPU knows where each triangle lands on the screen, it fills in the triangle by deciding which pixels it covers. This step essentially converts the geometry of triangles into pixel candidates on the screen.

Fragment or pixel shading: For each pixel-like fragment, the GPU determines the final colour. It could look up a texture (for example, an image wrapped on the object), calculate the amount of lighting based on the direction of a lamp or the sun, apply shadows, and add effects like reflections.

Writing to frame buffer: The finished pixel colours are then written into an area of memory called the frame buffer. The display system reads the buffer and renders it on the screen.

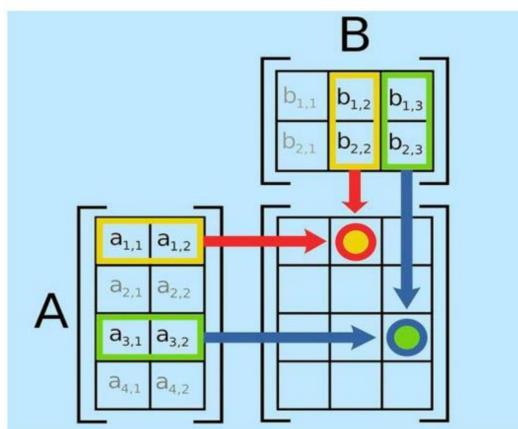
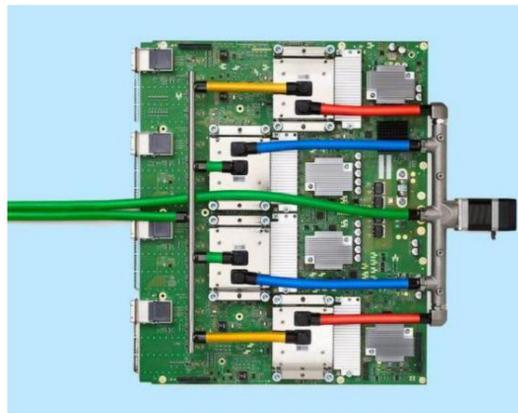
Small computer programs called shaders perform the calculations required for these steps. The GPU runs the same shader code on many vertices or many

Image 1:

Here, the green board on which everything is mounted on is the printed circuit board. The four flat, silver metal blocks arranged in a vertical column near the middle are liquid-cooled packages. The green hoses and the coloured tubes are coolant lines to and from the packages. Each package contains a TPU v4 chip surrounded by four high-bandwidth memory stacks. Four connectors dot the board's left edge.

Image 2:

In matrix multiplication, the value of c12 (red-yellow circle) is equal to $a_{11}b_{12} + a_{12}b_{22}$. Likewise, the value of c33 (blue-green circle) is equal to $a_{31}b_{13} + a_{32}b_{23}$. ARXIV:2304.01433 LAKEWORKS (CC-BY-SA)



pixels in parallel. Effectively the GPU reads and writes very large amounts of data – including 3D models, textures, and the final image – quickly, which is why many GPUs have their own dedicated memory called VRAM, short for video RAM. VRAM is designed to have a high bandwidth, meaning it can move a lot of data in and out per second. Still, to avoid having to fetch the same data, the GPU also contains smaller, faster memory in the form of caches and arrangements for shared memory access from becoming a bottleneck. Many tasks outside graphics also involve performing the same type of calculation on large arrays of numbers, including machine learning, image processing, and in simulations.

Where is the GPU located?

A chip is a flat piece of silicon, called the die, with a fixed surface area measured in square mm. In a computer, the GPU is not a separate layer that sits below the CPU; instead it is just another chip, or a set of chips, mounted on the same motherboard or on a graphics card and wired to the CPU with a high-speed connection. If your computer has a separate graphics card, the die holding the GPU will be under a flat metal heat sink in the middle of the card, surrounded by several VRAM chips. And the whole card will plug into the motherboard. Alternatively, if your laptop or smartphone has 'integrated graphics', it likely means the GPU and the CPU are on the same die. This is common in modern systems-on-a-chip, which are basically packages containing different chip types that historically used to come in separate packages.

Are GPUs smaller than CPUs?

GPUs are not smaller than CPUs in the sense of using some smaller kind of electronics. In fact, both use the same kind of silicon transistors made with

similar fabrication nodes, for example, the 3-5 nm class. GPUs differ in how they use the transistors, that is, they have a different microarchitecture, including how many computing units there are, how they're connected, how they run instructions, etc.

CPU designers devote a lot of the die's area to complex control logics, the cache (auxiliary memory), and features that improve the chip's performance and ability to make decisions faster. A GPU on the other hand will 'spend' more area on many repeating compute blocks and very wide data paths, plus the hardware required to support those blocks, such as memory controllers, register files, display controllers, sensors, on-chip networks, etc. As a result, GPUs – especially the high-end ones – often have more total transistors than many CPUs, and they aren't necessarily more densely packed per square mm. In fact, high-end GPUs are often very large. Some GPU packages also place dynamic RAM very close to the GPU die, connected using short wires with high bandwidth. Essentially, the architecture of components needs to ensure the GPU can transfer large volumes of data quickly.

Why do neural networks use GPUs?

Neural networks – mathematical models with multiple layers that learn patterns from data and make predictions – can run on CPUs or GPUs, but engineers prefer GPUs because the networks run many tasks in parallel and move a lot of data. The math of neural networks is in the form of matrix and tensor operations. Matrix operations are calculations on two-dimensional grids of numbers, like rows and columns; the numbers in each grid can represent various properties of a single object. The essential problem is to multiply two grids to get a new grid. Tensor operations are the same idea but use higher-dimensional grids, like 3D or 4D arrays. This is useful when the neural

network is processing images, for instance, which have more properties of interest than, say, a sentence. A neural network repeatedly adds and multiplies matrices and tensors. Since it's the same set of mathematical rules, just applied on different numbers, the thousands of cores of a GPU are perfect for the job.

Second, contemporary neural networks can have millions to billions of parameters (a parameter is a learned weight or bias value inside the network). So in addition to doing the math, the network also has to be able to move data fast enough – and GPUs have very high memory bandwidth. Many GPUs also include tensor cores, which are designed to multiply matrices extremely fast. For example, the NVIDIA H100 Tensor Core GPU can perform around 1.9 quadrillion operations per second of tensor operations called FP16/BF16. In fact, Google developed chips called Tensor Processing Units (TPUs) to efficiently run the math that neural networks require.

How much energy do GPUs consume?

Let's use a hypothetical example where four GPUs are used to train a neural network to predict the risk of some disease for a person (based on age, BMI, blood markers, and medical history). Then the same network is put in use. Each GPU is an Nvidia A100 PCIe, whose board power is around 250 W during training.

The GPUs are nearly fully used during training. The training duration is 12 hours.

The energy consumed during training will be 12 kWh and during use, around 2 kWh (assuming only one GPU provides the inferences). The server will also consume power for its CPUs, RAM, storage, fans, and networking, and some power will be lost. It's typical to add 30-60% of the GPU power for these needs. Therefore, the total consumption will be around 6 kWh/day for the network to run continuously. This is equivalent to running an AC for four to six hours at full compressor power, a water heater for around three hours or 60 small LED bulbs for 10 hours a day.

Does Nvidia have a monopoly?

Nvidia technically doesn't have a monopoly on GPUs; it enjoys a near-complete dominance in some markets and is a very strong market power in artificial intelligence (AI) computing platforms.

In discrete GPUs sold for use in personal computers, industry trackers have reported that Nvidia has roughly 90% market share at least, with AMD and Intel making up most of the rest. As for GPUs used in data centres, Nvidia's position is strengthened by hardware performance and supply and the CUDA software ecosystem. CUDA is Nvidia's software platform to run general-purpose computation (like processing a signal or analysing data) on Nvidia GPUs. As a result, switching away from using Nvidia GPUs also means changing software, which companies don't like to do. In fact, many buyers consider Nvidia GPUs running CUDA software to be the default platform for training and using neural networks at scale.

The legal definition of monopoly depends on whether a firm can control prices or exclude the competition and whether it maintains that power through unlawful conduct. This is why, for instance, European regulators have been investigating whether Nvidia uses its dominance to lock customers in, mainly by tying or discounting GPU prices when buyers also take Nvidia software or related components.

THE GIST

▼ A Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) is an extremely powerful number-cruncher. Less simply: a GPU is a kind of computer processor built to perform many simple calculations at the same time.

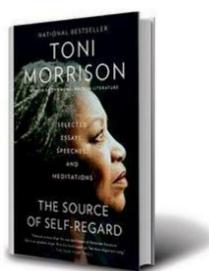
▼ Neural networks – mathematical models with multiple layers that learn patterns from data and make predictions – can run on CPUs or GPUs, but engineers prefer GPUs because the networks run many tasks in parallel and move a lot of data

▼ Nvidia technically doesn't have a monopoly on GPUs; it enjoys a near-complete dominance in some markets and is a very strong market power in artificial intelligence (AI) computing platforms.

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Songs of protest: Jazz singer and musician Nina Simone performing during the Panafrican festival in Algiers on July 15, 1969. AFP



Measuring nonwhiteness: remembering Toni Morrison and Nina Simone

In their birthday month, we look at the extraordinary oeuvre of two great Black artists. If Nina Simone confronts the nation in public with her songs, Toni Morrison confronts it in the intimate spaces of the home in her books

Jonathan Koshy Varghese

What does it mean when a mother of three can be shot down in broad daylight by a federal agent meant to protect communities? Renée Good was a poet. She was white and she was an American citizen. Even if the first attribute could be construed as a threat, in the larger American imagination, the latter two should have functioned as guarantees. They should have insulated her from harm. But they did not.

Good's killing compels a more rigorous question: what is being guaranteed, and for whose protection does that guarantee exist? As the sociologist, Saida Grundy reminds us, the promise to safeguard white women in America has never been unconditional. It is honoured only so long as it serves the structure that sustains it, a structure that is at once patriarchal and white. When that order is threatened, the promise is broken. The alliance between white womanhood and white supremacy, we are reminded, is an arrangement. And arrangements, as we now see, may be withdrawn.

Nonwhiteness and power

Power may solicit criticism, even stage it as proof of its own openness, but it does not endure it unconditionally. After Good's murder, the state moved quickly to defend itself. Both, the Department of Justice and Homeland Security framed the incident as necessary and inevitable. But some voices intervened. Minnesota congresswoman Ilhan Omar refused the state's narrative, while the Minneapolis mayor, Jacob Frey, rejected the official script. Their outrage unsettled the serene vocabulary of compliance, and the state's

inhumanity stood exposed. By now, however, inhumanity has become a familiar refrain.

Only a few days back, in the I.C.E. (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) facility in Baltimore, U.S. Representative, Jamie Raskin, saw non-white detainees, crowded into holding rooms, in the most demeaning of conditions. The account was shocking because it was conceivable within the state's logic of governance. Dignity is elusive in a system that reduces non-whites into units to be managed. Cornel West called this the "niggerisation" of America. In the United States, the Black body has long functioned as the site upon which discipline is practised and paraded. However, the Black female body bears an additional weight, racialised and gendered at once, exposed to scrutiny, repression, and erasure.

Blackness as womanhood

Both Nina Simone (February 18) and Toni Morrison (February 21) were born this month. In simpler times, that fact might have invited a conventional tribute. Now it asks for something more exacting. Both were women. Both Black. Both of them knew what dehumanisation in America entailed. And for that, their works insist on a more precise form of remembrance.

In 1978, decades before I.C.E., Nina Simone sang of Baltimore. Her lyrics traced the weariness of a place where dignity was in shambles. To Simone, Baltimore was no longer a city in Maryland, but an index of exhaustion, a signifier of the human condition, a refrain. She listed the routine fatigue of a city, and the slow unravelling of the American dream. The song was political, but without the blunt force of "Mississippi

Goddam" (1964). The latter marked Simone's first unequivocal protest, written in the aftermath of the September 1963 bombing in Birmingham, when a white supremacist's attack killed four young Black girls.

Racial violence was the theme and Simone's performance bore its weight. Two years later, in 1966, in her "Four Women," the crisis consuming Black women appeared with an undeniable immediacy. Race, gender, and historical trauma converged, accumulating and settling into lived experience. The dehumanisation of the Black woman was, Simone bemoaned, unrelenting. "Baltimore," does not carry the force of conviction that we discern in other songs. Simone's words are soft without being indulgent. She did not deny the racial discrimination and economic decline that marked the city. It showed in its streets, in the fatigue of its people. But Simone did not abandon the city to its failures. She looks at the city as it is, and attends to what is there. The song becomes an act of attention. It is an admission of love for a place, and for the idea of a place, which others have already written off.

The body as archive

Where Nina Simone confronts the nation in public, Toni Morrison confronts it in the intimate spaces of the home. The body becomes her stage. It thinks, and it remembers. In *The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations* (2019), Morrison maintained that racism works by taking away Black people's inner life. In *Beloved* (1987), she worked to restore it. In it, the enslaved are no longer reduced to symbols of suffering. They think. They desire. They exercise the will to choose, and sometimes their choices

are extreme. Morrison's protagonist, Sethe, embodies this fierce humanity. Her grisly act is not presented as pathology but as an excruciating decision forced by a world that treated her children as property. Such choices, Sethe soon realises, are accompanied by moral burden.

Memory restores interiority, and with it, dignity. The body remembers, Morrison reminds us. It thinks, and it carries history in every scar. Sethe had to remember her crime, because, murder, Morrison reiterates, is a crime. Yet through memory, through the difficult reclamation of what was done and why, she is rendered human again. The woman on whom the story is based was never granted that reckoning. It is a privilege Morrison crafts into her fiction.

Now, in America, fiction contends with fiction. Once, slavery required the fiction that the Black body was property. Our present requires a different fiction: that some bodies are threats to order, contaminants of the nation's imagined purity. Before a body can be caged, it must first be stripped of its humanity, its memories. For memories disturb the neat categories imposed upon them. In our own moment, the categories have new names. Detainee. Alien. Words that perform erasure.

When Good was murdered, her body was enveloped in a language that was procedural. But perhaps we should remind ourselves that a body does not die procedurally. It dies as a body. It dies as someone who thought, remembered, feared, hoped.

The writer teaches Literature at Lady Shri Ram College. He is associated with the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on the world of Artificial Intelligence

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Name the seminal paper published by Google researchers in 2017 that introduced the transformer architecture used by modern LLMs.

QUESTION 2

Name the specialised processing units within NVIDIA GPUs that are designed to drastically accelerate AI, deep learning, and high-performance computing workloads.

QUESTION 3

Copilot grounds its LLM responses in real-time

web data by using a proprietary orchestrator that connects to the Bing search index. What mythological name has Microsoft given to this model?

QUESTION 4

Name the Israeli-Canadian scientist, a co-founder and former chief scientist at OpenAI, who co-invented AlexNet, a convolutional neural network.

QUESTION 5

Expand RNN and LSTM, the neural networks used for sequential data like natural language processing.

QUESTION 6

What is 'hallucination' with respect to AI?



Visual question:

Name this young IITM alumnus who is the co-founder and CEO of a tech firm that is challenging Google Search and ChatGPT.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name the other four pillars of Islam apart from fasting. **Ans: Faith, Prayer, Charity and Pilgrimage**

2. The start of an Islamic month usually depends on the sighting of this body. **Ans: (Crescent) moon**

3. The significance of 622 CE. **Ans: Prophet Muhammad and his followers migrated from Mecca to Medina to escape persecution**

4. During this month, the first verses of Islam's central text, the Quran, were revealed to the Prophet here. **Ans: Cave of Hira / Mount Hira**

5. This angel is believed to have delivered the revelations. **Ans: Angel Jibreel (Gabriel)**

6. The Quran prescribes the practice of fasting to these religious communities. **Ans: Jews and Christians**

7. In 1973, an Arab coalition launched this offensive against Israel. **Ans: Yom Kippur War**

Visual: Name the mosque compound and the structure pictured in the background. **Ans: Al-Aqsa mosque compound; Dome of the Rock**
Early Birds: Mohan Lal Patel| Tamal Biswas| Sukdev Shet| Arun Kumar Singh| Dodo Jayaditya



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"What's the matter?"

"My Physics teacher is giving us another test tomorrow. The number of tests we have every month are increasing."

"Is increasing."

"What?"

"The number of tests is increasing. You see, 'the number of' usually takes a singular verb."

"Singular verb? But the noun that follows the number of is plural!"

"That's true. But the number of takes a singular verb. That's the rule. For example, the number of trucks coming into our colony has decreased."

"The number of runs he scored this year is less than what he scored last year."

"That's a good example. The number of students coming to college in cars has been gradually increasing."

"Does the same rule apply to a number of, as well?"

"No, it doesn't. A number of, usually takes a plural verb."

"I see. So, the number of is followed by a singular verb, and a number of is followed by a plural verb."

For example, a number of teachers are expected to take part in the protest."

"A number of old theatres were demolished last month."

"Here's another example. During the riots a number of people were arrested."

"I read about that. The Principal, as well as the teachers, were asked to..."

"...was asked to. You see..."

"...but I am talking about the Principal and the teachers!"

"I know. But the sentence should be, 'The Principal, as well as the teachers, was asked to leave the meeting'. When you use 'as well as', the verb that follows it depends on the noun which precedes 'as well as'."

"I see. And since in the example, the noun, the 'principal', which precedes 'as well as' is singular, ..."

"...the verb that follows 'as well as' has to be singular too. Therefore, we use the verb 'was' and not 'were'."

"My sister, as well my brother, is in college."

"Several players, as well as several policemen, were injured in the riots."

"The Prime Minister, as well as his Ministers, is going shopping. This rule is very similar to the one we have for 'along with'."

"Exactly! The man, along with his five children, was seen walking along the banks of the Ganges."

"The five children, along with their father, were seen walking along the banks of the Ganges."

"Excellent. Now then, shouldn't you go home and start preparing for the test?"

"I don't need to study."

"You are ready for the test, are you?"

"No, I am not. The students are planning to protest tomorrow."

"Protest? Protest about what?"

"About the increasing number of tests, of course. Every boy and every girl are going to meet the Principal tomorrow."

"Is going to meet the Principal."

"Is? But I said, Every boy AND every girl'. Doesn't it make the subject plural?"

"No, it doesn't."

Published in *The Hindu* on August 31, 1999.

Word of the day

Perfidy:

betrayal of trust; an act of deliberate betrayal

Synonyms: betrayal, treachery, treason

Usage: *There have been allegations of perfidy against him.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/perfidypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pɜː.fɪ.di/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'